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february 1, 1994



HEAVEN'S METAL

Issue Number 45 (January/February '94)

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Scripture

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and work miracles among you because you
observe the law, or because you believe
what you heard?" (Galatians 3:5)

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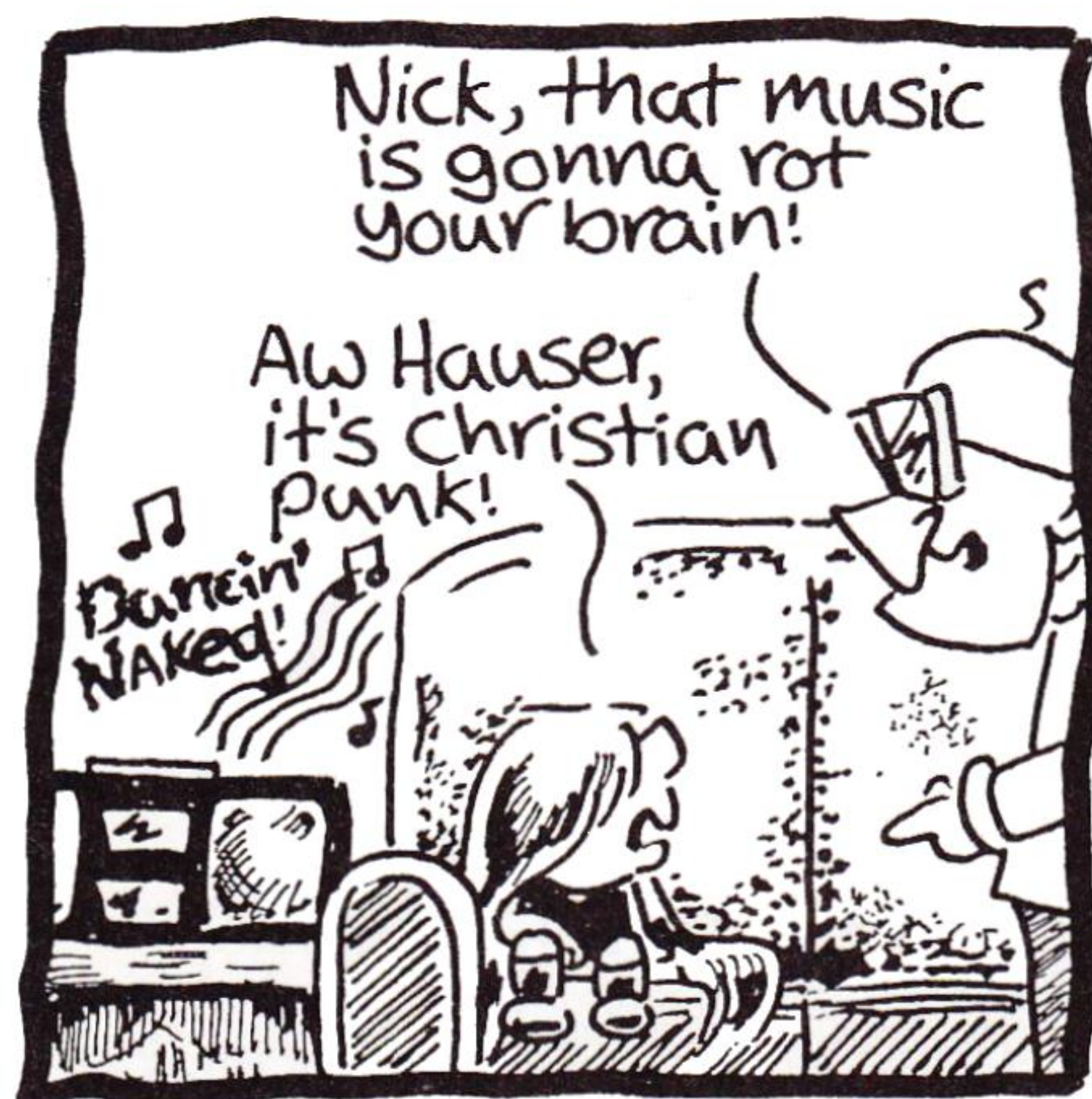
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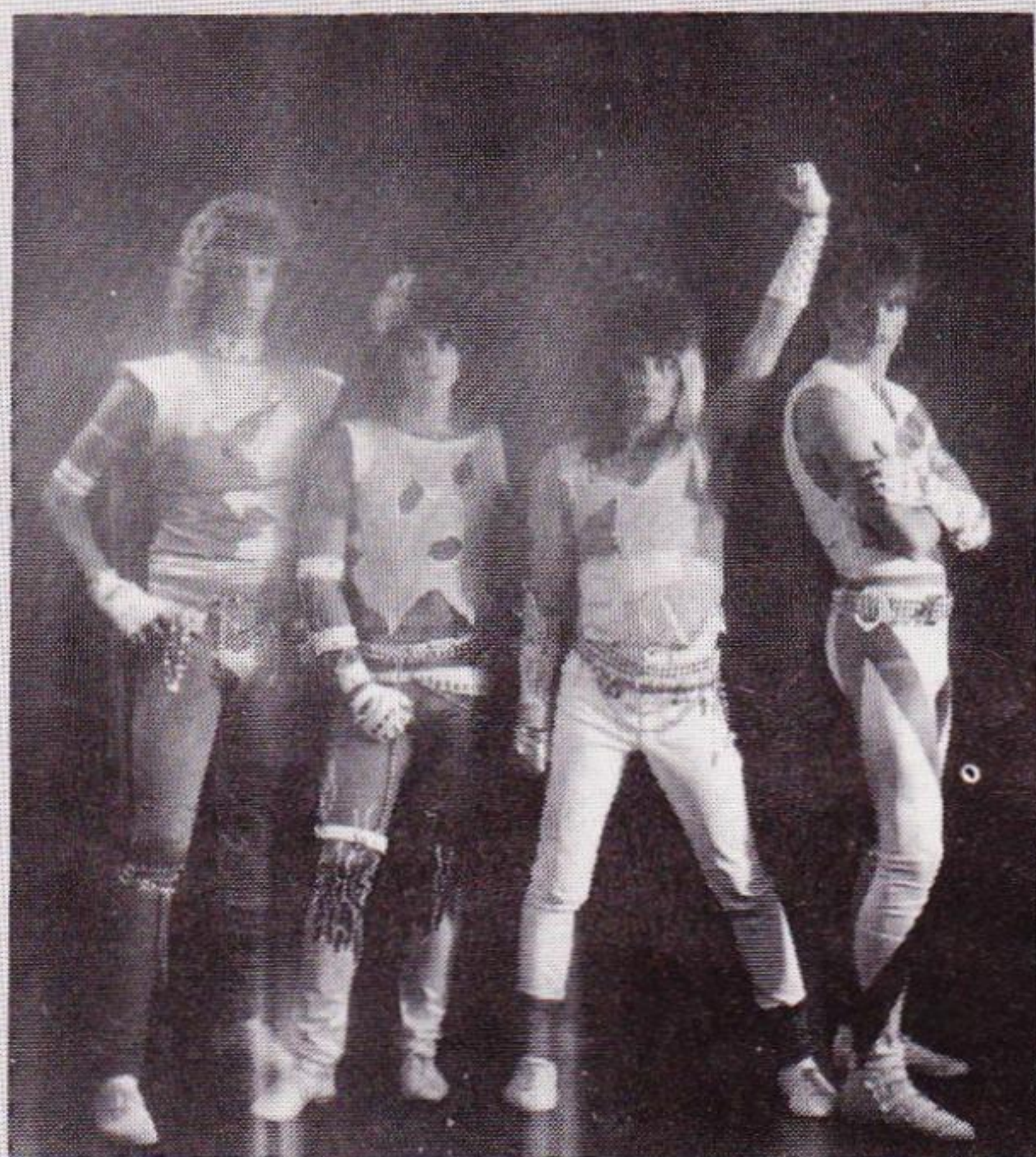
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by
Jeff
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Barren Cross



BEFORE

The music revolution of the 90's has lunged many hard and heavy bands into the melting pot of Christian Metal. But one of the first heavy metal bands to pound their sounds for the Lord chose not to take the dive. After the 1989 release of *State Of Control*, Barren Cross fell into a state of silence. With the help of the Lord and a renewed understanding of what is important, Barren Cross looks to shatter the silence and rock your soul.

"It's almost like we were never apart," commented drummer Steve Whitaker on the band's reunion. "As far as musically, the first time we got together at practice, we instantly played some songs off *State Of Control* and *Atomic Arena* just for fun. We just had a great time. It just all fell together again after so many years apart. It's been a great experience."

The creation of the *Premium Cuts* compilation album has helped bring new life to Barren Cross. Patriot Records offered the defunct band a chance to come back together and record a few new tunes. The members of Barren Cross gladly took advantage of the opportunity. "I really love what Patriot Records is doing," stated

vocalist Mike Lee. "I just think they are a highly esteemed company. I love (Michael) Betts as a person. I love his attitude in the recording industry. He's really out there for quality. I can't say enough about them.

"As of right now, we're just here to have a really good time together, and that's what we're doing in the studio. It's showing itself in the music too."

The guys in Barren Cross all seemed to be in agreement that there was a tremendous lack of pressure on them while they were recording. This freedom allowed the band to produce plenty of skull crushing rock 'n' roll. "It's really kind of like when Steve and I first started when we were 17 years old," explained guitarist Ray Parris. "It was just a good time when we made a lot of good music. There wasn't any red tape. I don't feel there's any red tape here. It's making for an excellent project because it's not a pressure situation. I could have taken it or left it, but everything was right. The Lord put it all together. I didn't do anything. I don't think any of the band members did. It was a couple of phone calls pretty much, and we're just coming in having a good time."

"It was just like when Barren Cross first started out," added bassist Jim LaVerde, "with the exception that we have learned a lot of lessons, and we have taken those lessons and brought them to what is happening now. I will treasure this time for as long as I live. I hope we get to do it again."

During the band's years of silence, new musical trends began spreading across the air waves like wildfire. One may wonder if the new Barren Cross tunes will be up to par or dreadfully outdated. Patriot Records' president had that same fear. "Barren Cross has been out of service for a while,

and I wasn't too sure how it was going to sound," remembered Michael Betts. "Basically, coming out of the studio here Sunday night with 90 percent of everything in the bag, I'm blown away.

"Their chops are still there. Their song writing is as strong as ever. I'm completely impressed with how they sound. It's classic Barren Cross with a 90's edge."

"The future holds a big question mark."

Mike Lee seems to be confident about the new Barren Cross as well. "I just sat there and played the tape over and over again because I loved it. You'll notice here and there a few things that you're gonna go, 'Wow, that's old Barren Cross.' But yet it has a new edge. It's definitely now, and the music just kicks. It's really energetic. It hasn't lost its power at all. A lot of bands tend to mellow out. We're still kicking butt. I think the fans are going to be more happy with this than they've ever heard out of us before."

Premium Cuts will include three new Barren Cross tunes. "Time For Love," which is also on Mike's acoustic album, has been beefed up with drums, bass and wailing guitars to turn the song into an intense rocker. "I think Mike's song is what's happening right now," described Ray. "It's very -- I can't even describe it. It's kind of a cross between Aerosmith and Mike Lee. It's just really diverse; it's not run of the mill metal. The song Mike and I wrote together ('Midnight Son') is very heavy -- very radio oriented I believe. It's got a flavor sort of like 'Deadlock.'"

The third song that will be included from Barren Cross is one that

comes straight from Steve's heart. "'Here I Am' is a real personal song," explained Steve. "It comes from a couple of years of just not knowing . . . seeking direction for my life, seeking direction for my family, seeking a career, seeking a whole lot of other things. I finally came to realize that I just needed to walk a daily walk with God and have God's will in my life. And when I finally put that together, everything came together, and that's the only way to go."

"Stuff like that needed to come out in a song, because I know that everybody needs to have that experience. God always takes care of our needs no matter what."

With three new tunes just off the press and a sense of togetherness once again, does this mean that Barren Cross is back in the saddle -- ready to record a full length album with a twice around the world tour to follow?

"As far as Barren Cross is concerned, that's all up in the air," pondered Mike. "The future is really kind of a mystery, and it kind of holds a big question mark. We're going to probably get back into the studio in March or April and begin recording another seven tunes, and then we'll have a reunion album. By the time that album gets released, it will be five years from the last studio album. So that's gonna be a trip."

And will there be a tour? "It's gonna be interesting," said Jim. "I think that we're at the point where we don't know. It's a little bit of an enigma. We're waiting to hear from the Lord. We're totally happy to do whatever God wants us to do."

The mystery surrounding the future of the band is probably the result of each member's different activities during the band's silent years. Steve is now a police officer, roaming the city for violators of the law. Jim is leading a worship team at Sanctuary and has also started a couple of businesses. Ray is a counselor at UCLA and is pursuing a college degree in business. And Mike is actively involved in a solo (non-acoustic) musical project which includes a full band.

"We still have our same personalities," explained Jim, "but music in general has not been the central theme of our lives and has not run our lives, nor will it ever run my life again like it did before."

Ten years ago, Barren Cross had a mission to tell the world of the love of Jesus Christ through its heavy music. Along the way, the band experienced countless miracles and saw many lives



AFTER

changed because of the love of Jesus. The long road also had its downfalls. One of those downfalls was in 1990, in what seemed to be the end of Barren Cross.

"I think we were off a little bit as far as our relationship with the Lord goes," commented Jim on the break up. "I definitely believe that God's hand was off of what we were doing at that point. We had just wrecked the motor home and had gone through so much that it was just like, 'Lord, what are you trying to tell us to do here?'"

"At that point Steve decided to kind of call it quits and not go on the road. A few months later Mike decided that he wasn't in it any more. We felt like we needed to finish up our obligations, so Ray and I just went ahead and finished them and then called it quits after that. All four of us weren't in the place where we needed to be. Our family priorities weren't where they needed to be. It's almost like it's taken us this long for us to get those priorities back in line."

Barren Cross fell victim to the trials and tribulations that extensive touring puts on a band. "There is a spiritual strain that is put on you when you begin to tour," continued Jim. "Basically, what happens is you go out and you put out every night, and you're encouraging and

you're trying to do the work of the Lord. You're putting out and you're putting out, and nothing is being put back in. We had very few opportunities to actually sit down and go to a church. That is a problem.

"I have to say to the young bands that are going to be touring to really be careful and keep the Lord first. One thing that I've learned is that when God's hand is in it, everything is going to work out fine. If the Lord can bring Barren Cross back together, He can do anything. That was miracle in itself."

Even though the future is uncertain for Barren Cross, the band is extremely excited about getting back together and about sharing its music with its fans. "We've had so many requests for new Barren Cross material, I think that's a big reason why we're doing this," explained Mike. "We've had so many requests, you know -- people writing, 'We want more. We want more. Let's hear some new stuff.' I think this is just partially something to say, 'Okay, here we are.' It's almost like an encore."

"I definitely want to say 'thank you' to the fans. Thank you for supporting me. Thank you for supporting the band, and we look forward to seeing you soon at a stage near you."

HM

By Andrew Crump

The Return Of Neon Cross

"Let's start from the top -- I was a major heathen playing in rock 'n' roll bands," explained David Reeves, vocalist for Neon Cross. "I heard lots of Christians giving me their spill and telling me about this and that. I even had some people who firmly gripped me and asked me to say the sinner's prayer with them and the whole bit. I was kind of fed up with that kind of thing."

David purchased a Bible and dug into the Word for nine months to educate himself on Christian beliefs in order to combat those that were trying to convert him. As he was reading through the New Testament for the second time, the words of Jesus in the Sermon On The Mount pierced his heart.

"I was a bad guy," continued David. "I was the life of the party/jerk type of guy. I had my girlfriend, and I had my other girlfriends on the side. But, of course, I thought that I was okay. The things that Jesus said absolutely ripped into all the inconsistencies in my life and made it so clear that, if I was really a good person, then I would not be so self-centered."

While at work as a bowling alley mechanic, David broke down and surrendered his life to Jesus. "I felt the Spirit of God come down and minister to me right there in that place, and I gave my life to the Lord. He cleaned me up real good. One day I was a sinner, the next day I was free."

In another time and place God was working in another young man's heart in much the same way. "I was a guitar player," explained Don Webster, guitarist for Neon Cross. "And, like most guitar players, I was not looking to be 'Don the great guitar player,' but looking to play in a rock and roll band here in Hollywood. What really got me to go towards the Lord was that I had seen this special on Channel 28, which is the Praise The Lord channel, about backward masking. It really kind of freaked me out."

Don was involved in the rock 'n' roll scene, and the television show revealed the evil that was around him. The thought of his life being a part of that evil created a fear inside his heart. Don decided that he needed Jesus and surrendered his life. He later destroyed all of his rock albums and attempted to quit smoking marijuana. "I thought I couldn't do it," remembered Don. "I had been doing it for five years. You just can't drop it. I prayed one night



and said, 'Lord, I can't stop; You've got to help me stop. There is no way I'm going to do this in my own power.' I had this little New Testament Bible. It was just put on my heart to read Revelations and concentrate on that, and I did. I was driving a truck at that time. When I wasn't driving I was reading that Bible. In the course of ending Revelations, I was delivered from marijuana. It's been like that for the last 12 years."

Don struggled with whether he should give up guitar playing, but he soon realized that this was a talent given to him by God. In 1981, he, along with P.K. Mitchell (vocals, guitar), Michael Betts (drums) and various bass players set out to form the Christian band Neon Cross.

In the early days, the band played a progressive style of rock, but eventually saw that this form of music would not reach the audiences they wanted to reach. In 1983, Neon Cross changed from progressive rock to heavy metal. P.K. left the band to pursue other interests. In 1984, David Reeves auditioned and acquired the open position as vocalist for the band.

"What's interesting is a lot of songs started pouring out when David joined the band," commented Don. "I really believe it was God's anointing on the

band to get us together and get things going."

Tom Quaz soon entered the scene as Neon Cross' bass player. The band played the clubs and churches and slowly began making a name for itself. Tom left the band, and P.K. rejoined as the band's bassist for a while. Neon Cross decided to record an album that it would self-finance. P.K. left the band during the recording to pursue a guitar career. Ed Ott took over the bass chores. Through all of the musical chair games, the band eventually recorded its tunes.

"What happened is we got a deal to play on *California Metal*. That's how we hooked up with Regency Records," explained Don. "Regency learned that we had been trying to record an album's worth of material. A lot of the material was prerecorded. When we got a record deal with Regency Records, we went into Pakaderm studios and re-recorded all the songs, and then they got released on album form."

The album, which was self-titled, hit the stores in 1987. Neon Cross toured for the album. After the last show at H.I.S. Fest III in 1989, David left the band.

"At the time that I left the band, I didn't think they were going to break

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up," said David. "I was leaving the band because there were some things that had happened that I had no control over. It was an influence that came in from the outside that greatly affected my family, and I had to step aside from the ministry and minister to my family. So, because of that, I left the band. I thought, to tell you the truth, that they were going to do great. In fact, they had this guy named Ronson come in and audition for them. I thought they sounded fantastic with Ronson. I thought they were going to do their best work without me."

"After David left the band," continued Don, "Mike, Ed and I decided we'd find another singer and continue. We tried out some singers and did some stuff that never really clicked. I ended up dropping out of it because my wife and I had just got a house. It was pretty obvious to me that I had a little more priority on this particular deal than the band, because the house was in serious need of fixing up. I told the guys I'd be leaving to go on and do the house project. After a year, Dave and I got back together. He started a band called Passion. He and I got together and wrote for a little bit. I then had to pull out of that for some other reasons."

Neon Cross seemed to be finished.

As 1993 spread itself across the

calendar, Patriot Records opened its arms to the dulled Neon Cross. "When the opportunity came to play together again, it looked like a real good opportunity for Don and I to write and to have some fun together," said David.

The band went back into the studio to record three songs for the *Premium Cuts* compilation album. As in the past, the band went through some member changes. Michael, who is the president of Patriot Records, stepped down from the drum kit and handed the sticks over to Troy Woody. Dave Starkey is the new bass player. Both of the new members are from Dave's other band -- Passion.

"Passion is kind of like a result of the direction that Neon Cross was going in just before I left the band," explained David. "Two of the tunes (that are going to be on the compilation album) are Neon Cross tunes that Passion played -- 'Mystery of Love' and 'In Your Mind.' We were pretty much starting to cut our own vein. There weren't a lot of people doing what we were doing. These songs were written back in 1987, 1988 -- something like that. They sound like a more refined and polished version of grunge rock. It's a very heavy sound, kind of psychedelic, very reminiscent of the 70's.

"The third song, 'Buy My Record,' is totally new. Don thought that I was kind of joking when I came up with that. He was like, 'Dave likes a good joke. We'll see how far this one is going to go.' 'Buy My Record' is one that we wrote specifically for *Premium Cuts*. It's kind of thrashy -- maybe Metallica meets Ugly Kid Joe."

And what does the former drummer for Neon Cross think of the new tunes? "Neon Cross has in some ways completely changed and in other ways stayed exactly the same," explained Michael. "The intensity of the vocals are still there. The 'thought provokingness' of the lyrics are still there. Musically it's got a lot more of a Metallica kind of influence -- more of a very thick, big crunching 90's sound. (David) is just his typical thought provoking self."

David considers the continued fan support Neon Cross has received over the years one of the major motivating factors in the band recording the three songs for the compilation album. "The fans are the primary reason why we're doing this over again. Mike had given us a proposal, and it's not like Don and I are looking to form Neon Cross and try to push

Continued on Page 22

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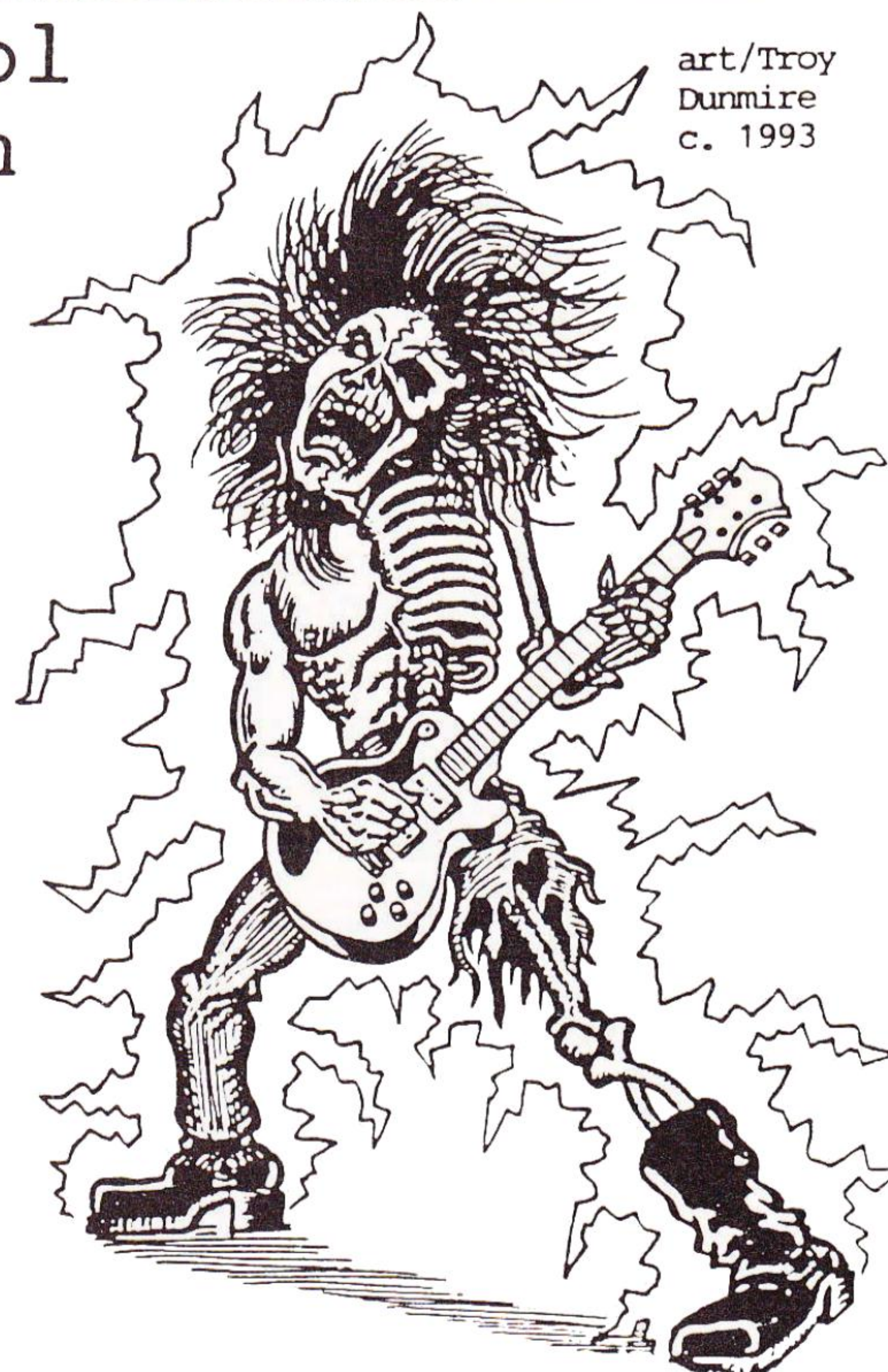
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Behold!

The Red Sea

By Andrew Crump

start a solo project.

"And as time kind of went on -- a week went by and I kind of decided that I wanted a band. It just basically started out as a solo project and eventually people came into it, and it was a band."

Robyn teamed up with Chris after Chris' departure from Fear Not, which was mainly due to his desire to relocate. "I totally love and respect those guys (in Fear Not) a lot," said Chris. "I'm still really great friends with those guys, and I think they have an incredible ministry."

Chris shares Robyn's excitement about the chemistry of Red Sea. "The ability to reach the audiences both Robyn and I have wanted to reach for a long time, and also being able to express myself musically are probably the two big things that I'm looking forward to doing in this band."

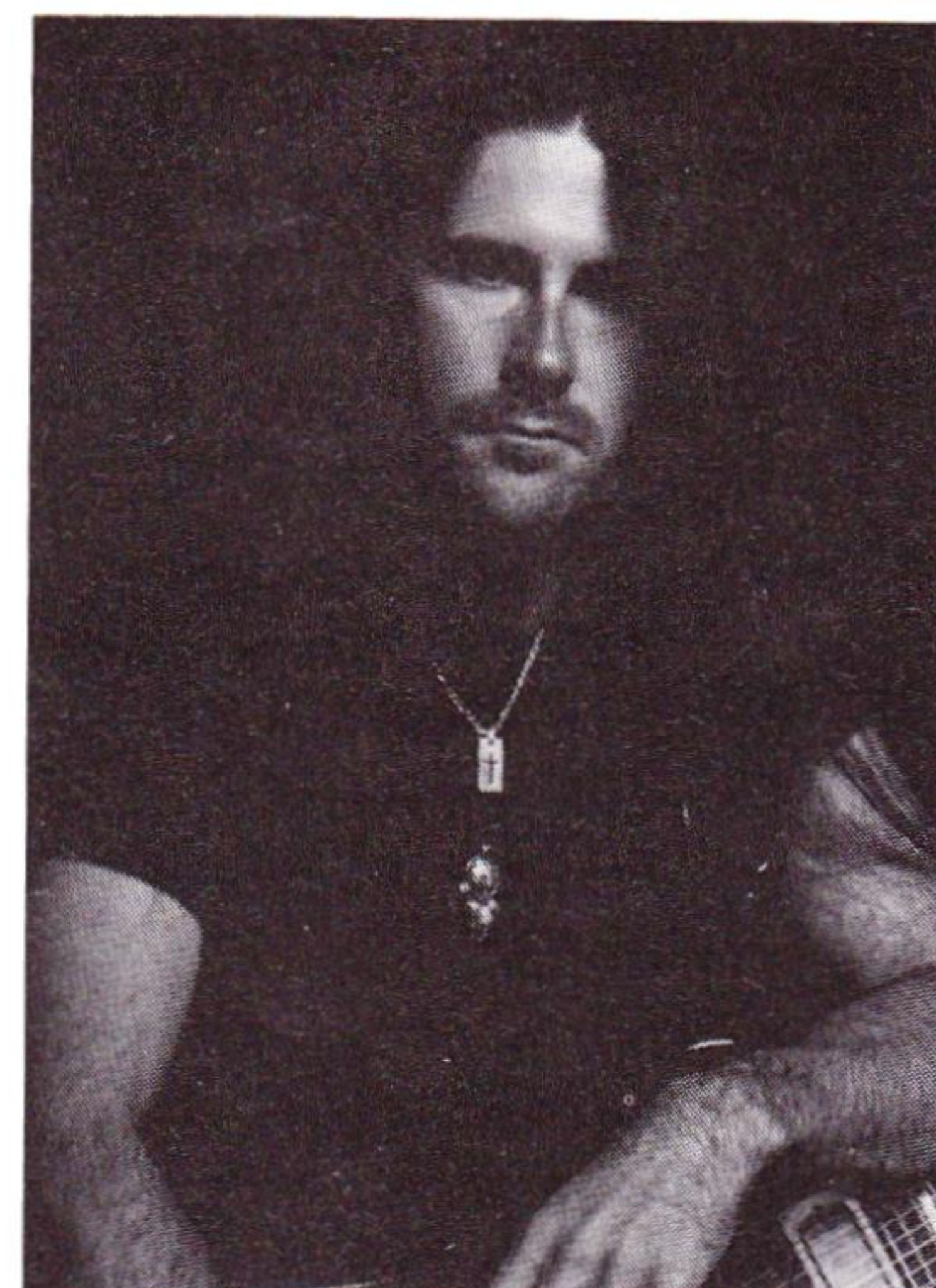
"I've worked in formats where sometimes you pretty much can't do what you want to do. With this band I've got the freedom of creativity, which is great. I did in a sense with the Fear Not stuff, but even more so in this band. Robyn and I talked, and that's one thing we both see eye to eye on -- the type of sound that we're after. So, that's pretty exciting."

Three of Red Sea's songs will be featured on the *Premium Cuts* compilation album being put out by Patriot Records.

Robyn considers himself lucky that Red Sea has the opportunity to be on the album. "I think (Michael Betts) had Barren Cross and Neon Cross already in mind for it. When I approached him with doing my own thing, that's kind of how it happened. He heard the material and thought it was good enough to put on the record. It's kind of an appetizer for the album coming out."

Red Sea had two guest musicians on the compilation album: Jeff Martin (Badlands) played drums and Greg Chaisson (Die Happy) played bass. Paul Huesman is scheduled to play drums on Red Sea's full length album (entitled *Blood*), due out this Spring. The bass position is currently vacant.

When asked about his thoughts on the Red Sea tunes on *Premium Cuts*, Michael Betts seemed to start drooling. "Red Sea is putting out music that is right up my alley. I think as far as a new band just on the slate, they're probably one of



the most promising bands I've ever seen getting ready to come out."

Along with Red Sea's strong determination to shred its 70's branded rock, the band also has a powerful mission to share the love of Jesus Christ.

"The goal of Red Sea is to reach the lost as well as the saved," explained Robyn. "There's a big ministry in ministering to Christians, but I think there's a bigger ministry and an even greater blessing in ministering to people who do not know Christ. That's the audience that we're really targeting right now."

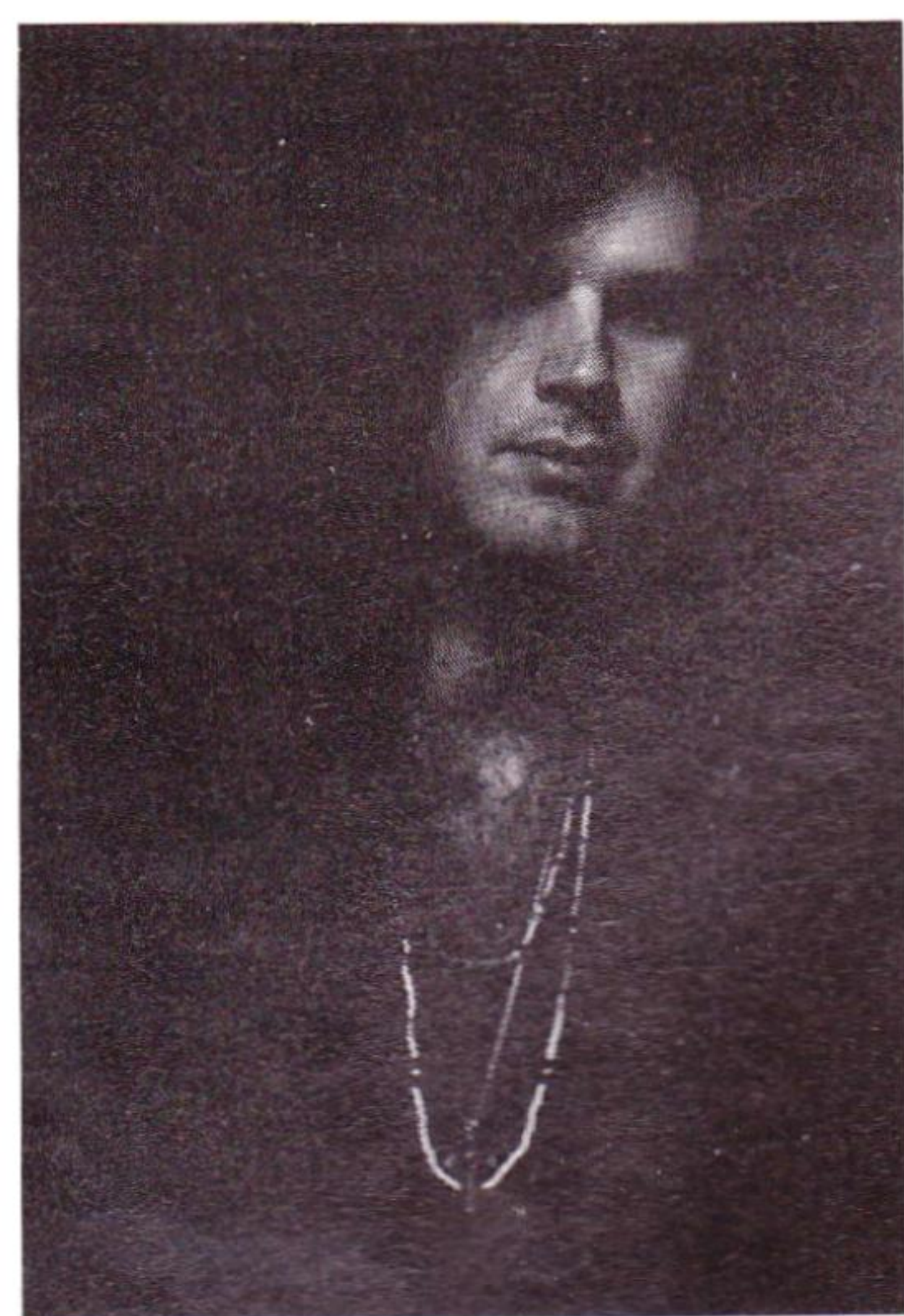
Robyn believes that many young people today are being desensitized to the violence and evil that is going on in the world. "The heaviest burden I carry is that a lot of times kids are growing up without a chance to even get to know what's right. They're growing up in a society that's so violent and so totally anti-Christian (that) Christians are the ones that seem like the freaks. By the time we can reach them it's almost too late, because their minds are poisoned with all this other stuff that's out there."

Because of this, Red Sea is placing a lot of importance on high quality musicianship in order to attract non-Christian ears. "To get the kids on the secular side of the fence -- that's where I think we really have to be top-notch," said Robyn. "I think where the ministry is going to be is in the kids buying the records, buying the image of the band and then getting into the words."

And what might be the 1994 goals for this bursting with potential rock band? "The first goal is to get the record out," said Robyn. "From there we go."

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Robyn Kyle, former vocalist of Die Happy, is riding in on a crimson tide of 70's noise with his new band -- Red Sea. Robyn, along with guitarist Chris Howell (ex-Fear Not) and drummer Paul Huesman, are determined to drench many ears with the sounds of *their* kind of rock 'n' roll.

"Red Sea is just kind of an opportunity for Chris and I to do what we've always dreamed of doing musically - for him to play the way he wants to play, and for me to sing the way I really want to sing... to write the way I want to write," explained Robyn. "Musically, Red Sea has some heavy groove type songs in the style of Deep Purple, Led Zeppelin and Bad Company. It's 70's based rock with kind of a 90's edge."

Fans of Robyn's work in the bands Jaguar and Die Happy won't be disappointed with his new creation. "Red Sea's supposed to be the best of Die Happy and the best of Jaguar. I'm giving the edge and the heaviness of Die Happy with some finesse and style of song writing that Jaguar displayed."

Robyn desires to stay away from the heavy grunge and grind that is reminiscent of Die Happy. "We're trying to stay as far away from grunge as we can. I never came from a real grunge background. Doing Die Happy was just an outlet for me, because it was so aggressive and so energetic. It was just fun to do."

With the dispersment of Die Happy and the desire to continue a musical career, Robyn decided to pursue a solo project. "I went to (Michael) Betts at Patriot Records and told him I wanted to do something on my own... that I had some material that was pretty much sitting on the back burner for a little while. I wanted to

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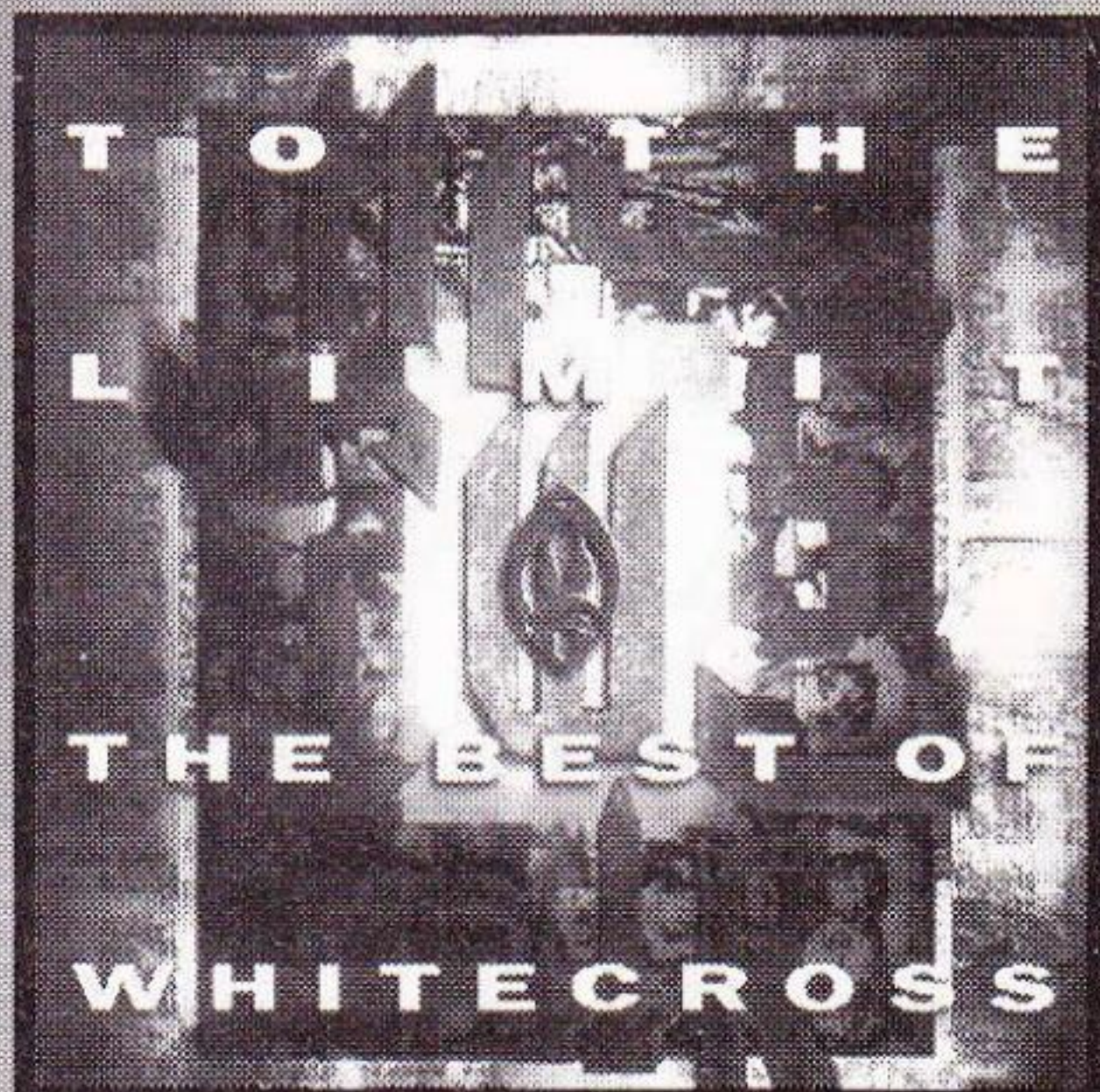
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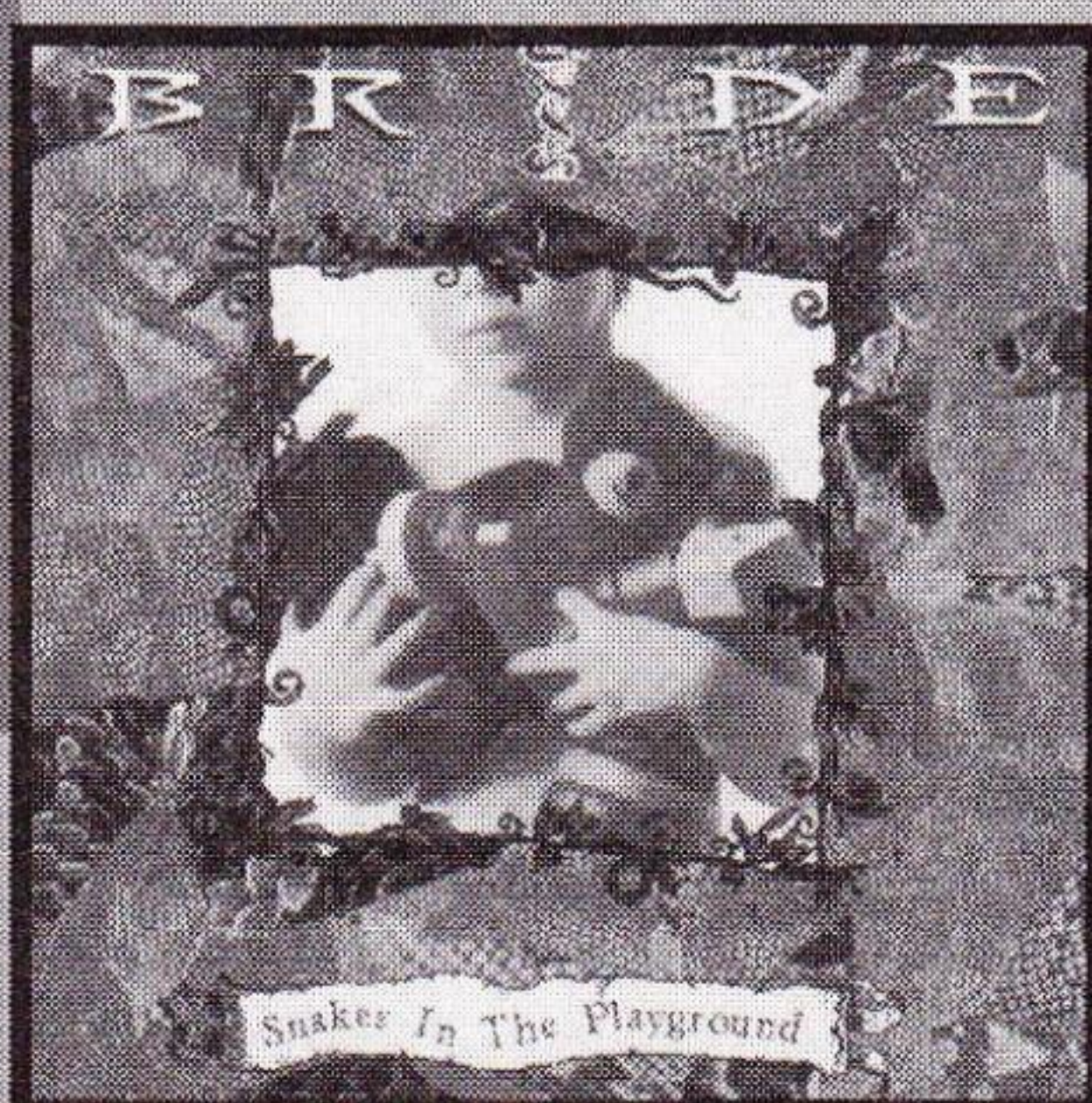
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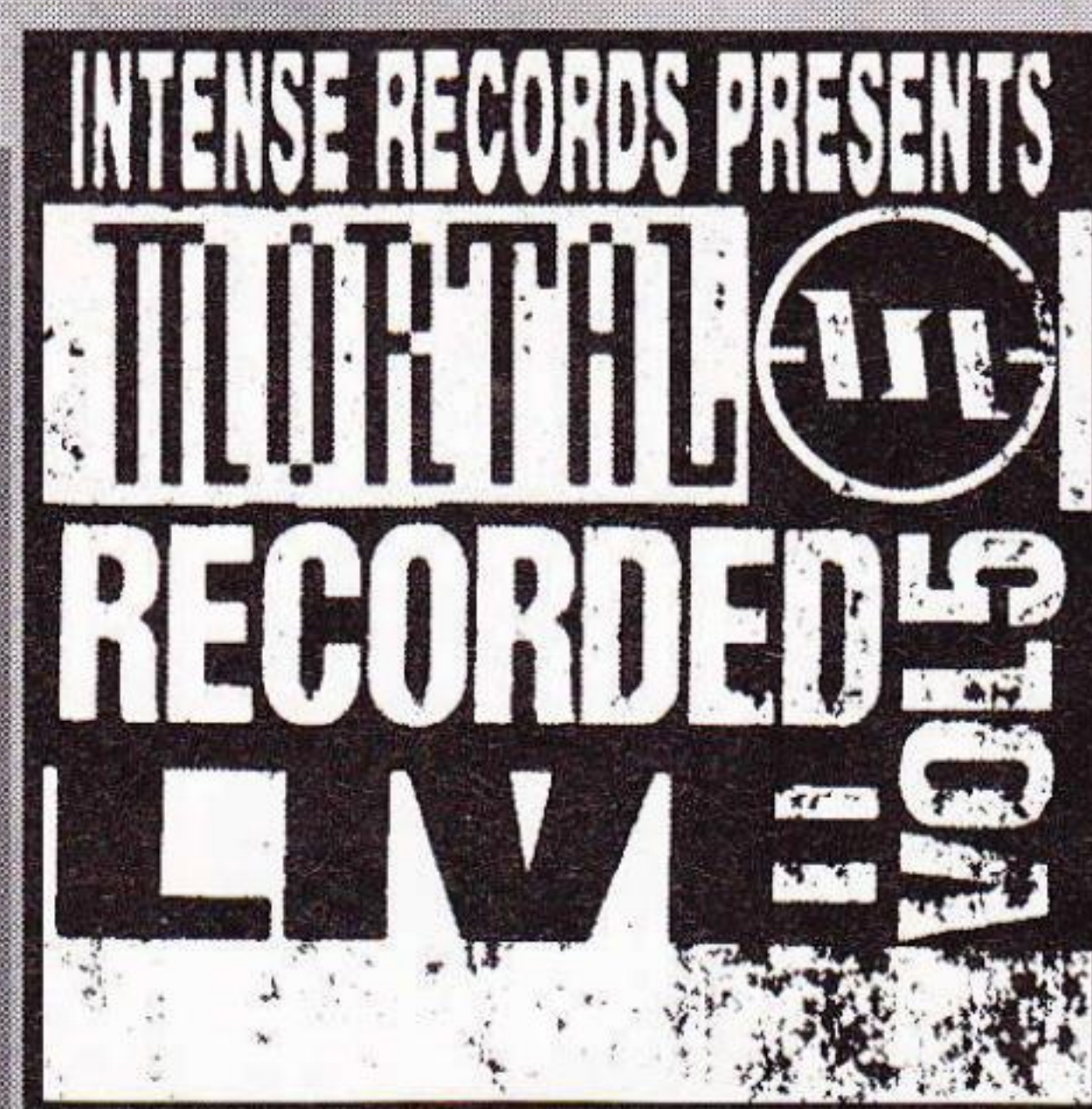
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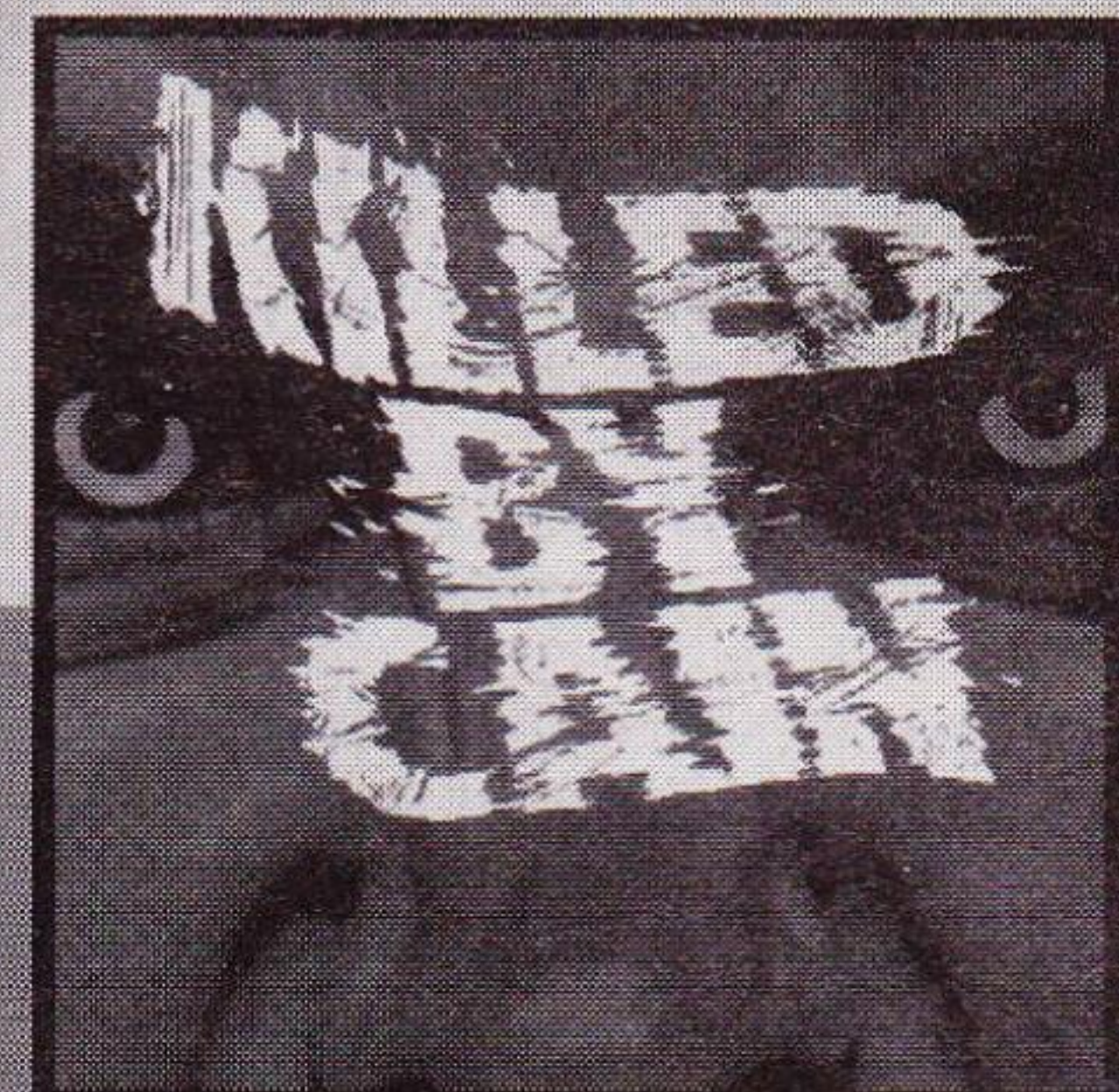
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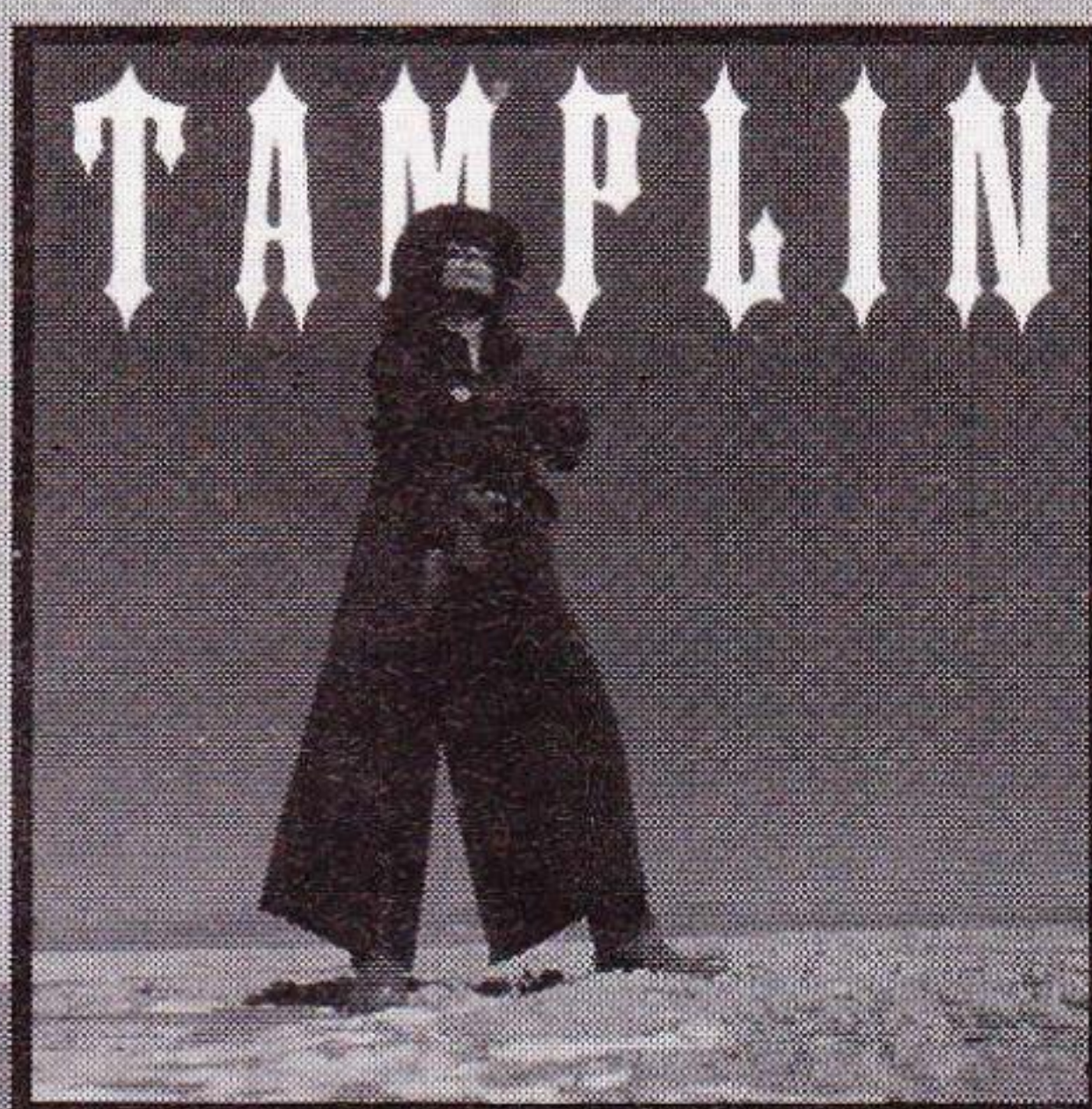
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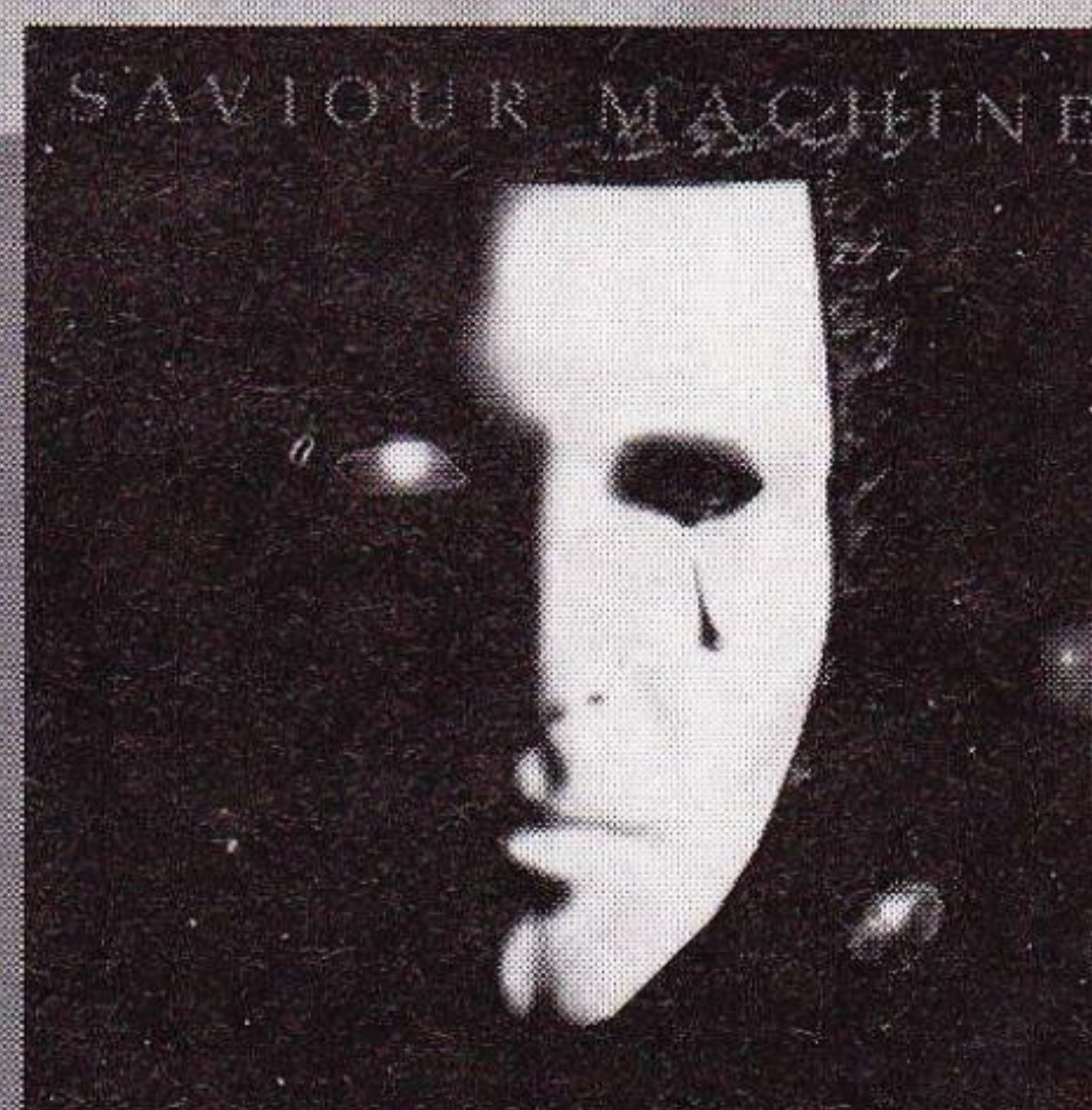
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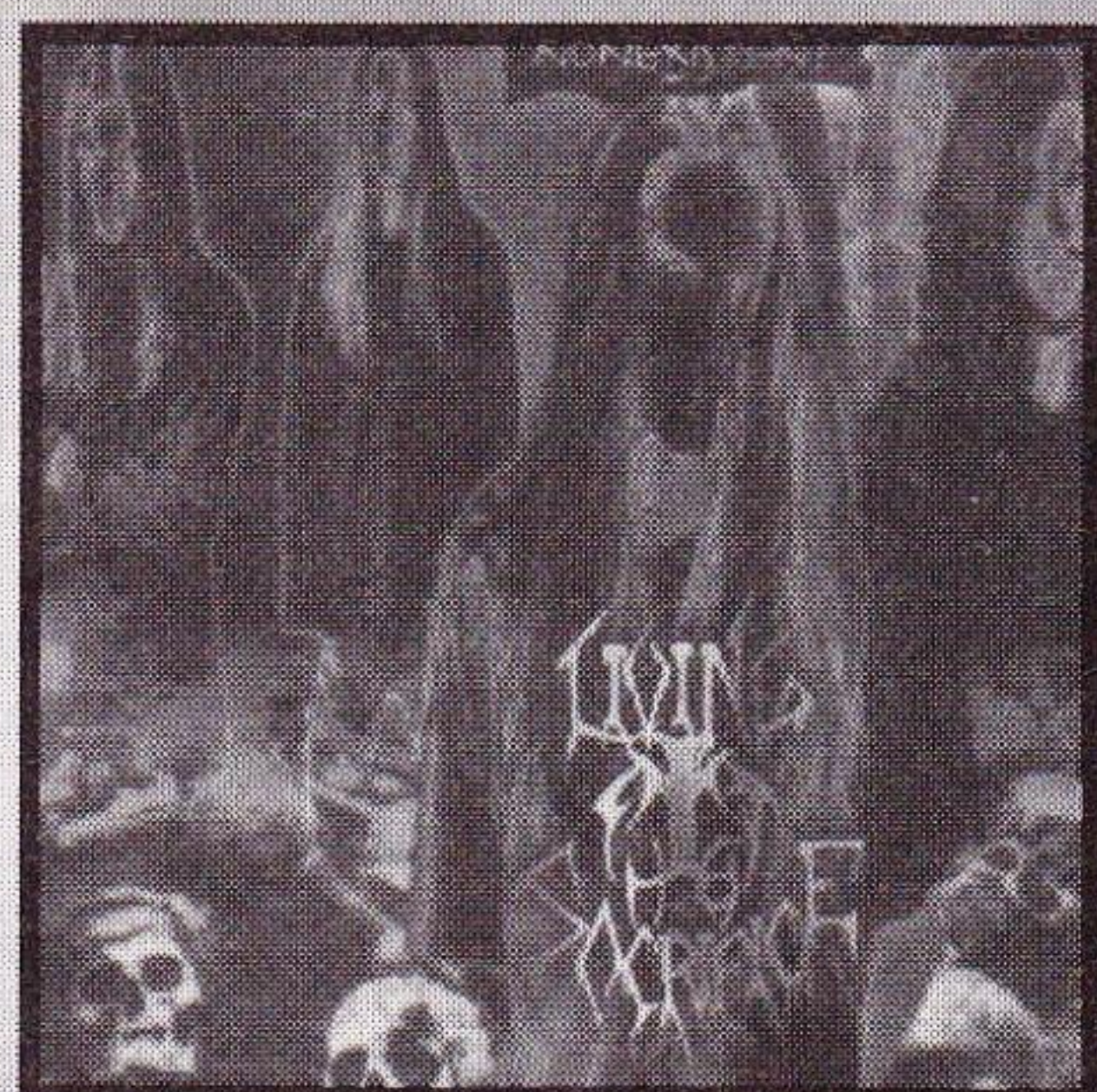
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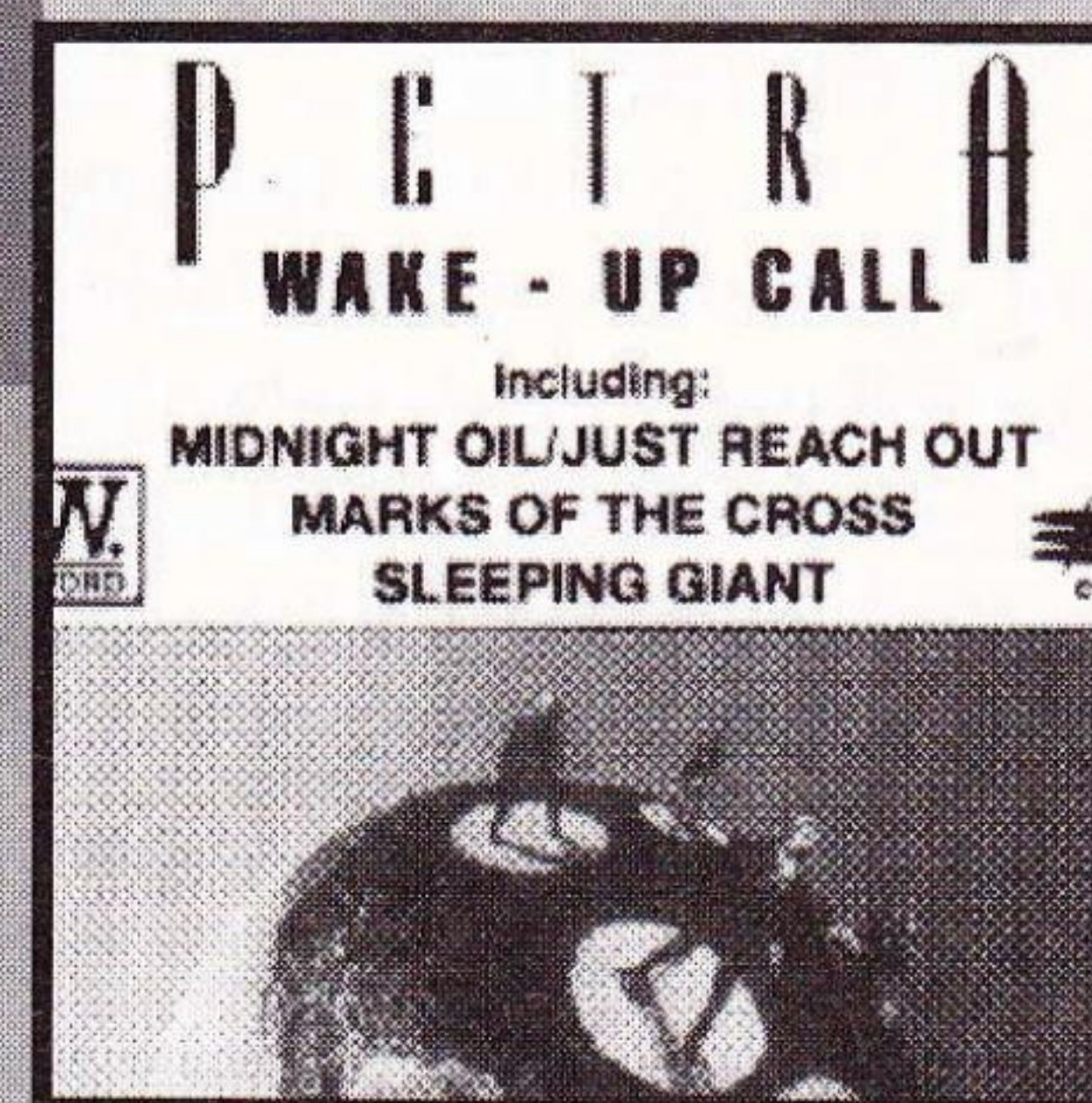
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Bride Taps Harvest Field In Brazil

If there was one band I had to pick as “being on top of the Christian metal scene,” it would probably have to be Bride. After three somewhat dismal albums of glam-like wailing bordering on thrash, Bride started writing songs they really liked. Three homemade demos previewed the new style that debuted on CD with “Everybody Knows My Name” and “Same Old Sinner.” The *Kinetic Faith* album convinced most everyone that a new Bride was in town. A small tour with Stryper followed and, by the time *Snakes in the Playground* was released, it was apparent that Bride may own the town. Bride played several festivals in '93, both in and out of the country, but the big moment came last September, when Bride went down to Brazil.

“We’ve been asked to go to Brazil on three different occasions,” starts Dale. “The first two times it fell through within two or three weeks of actually getting on the plane and going. This time we had applied for visas and everything and we were flying out on Wednesday. And when Tuesday came we had just got our visas. So, we actually went to the airport to pick up our tickets, and the flight was fine and everything.

“We get down there and they tell me that we’re going to be playing in a soccer stadium. I don’t know how our soccer stadiums look here, but I was pretty blown away by the size of the stadium. It was humungous -- this big concrete sculpture, you know. One of the women that were down there showing us the soccer stadium literally had to go over and push my chin up because I walked into the place -- I mean, my mouth was just dropped open. This whole time I had not yet conceived how many people were actually going to be there, because I’m thinking that we’ll come back here and we’ll play to a couple of thousand people at a Brazil show. And then after I saw the stadium I was like well, you know, we could probably get 10,000 people right up front. That’ll probably be it. That Friday we played the



show and I kept hearing all of these estimated reports when I was back stage. And at 30,000 and 40,000 they were still coming in. And when we got up to play, they said there were 60,000 people there at the stadium watching the band. It was the biggest show we had ever played up to that point. I mean we were just blown away.

“They had three three-story video screens -- one on each side and one behind the band. They had a killer P.A. system, 450 overhead lights with 20 intelli-beams. You know, it was almost like a Whitecross show (ha, ha). So, everything went really well. We seemed to have gone over as well as anybody that night. They had a big variety of bands, Brazillian bands. A very excellent female singer named Melissa out of California was there. She was one of the Americans, which was good to hang out with her and her husband Randy. A black artist named Steve Baker kind of does the R&B type stuff. He was there from the United States. But everybody else was from Brazil.

“So, we headlined Friday night. They said, ‘How would you like to play tomorrow night?’ which would have been Saturday. We said, ‘Well sure.’ So they gave us a half an hour spot at about 9

o’clock. The pastor said there was 135,000 people in the stadium and 15,000 people outside of the stadium when we played. And I know that in the fan club letters we marked the numbers down. Troy just would not believe the pastor. He said, ‘These numbers can’t be right -- there were only 100,000 people.’ So, whether or not there was 100,000 or 135,000, that was definitely the biggest show we have ever played.

“There was a secular camera company that video taped it. They had 10 video cameras. Three of the cameramen got saved over the two days. It was estimated that somewhere between 10,000 and 15,000 people were saved that showed up at the show. And this was called ‘S.O.S. For Life.’ Admission to get into the show was canned goods -- food and clothing. They said that they had raised 300,000 pounds of food within those two days for the poor people of Sao Paulo.

“So, needless to say, it was the biggest show we ever did and the most people we’ve seen get saved. It’s just unbelievable, the spiritual hunger that is down in Brazil. It’s a real fresh market and they really want God to do something big for them. They said that the stadium

was a mile around. And every day for 27 days -- it wasn't the same group of people -- but different people would march around the stadium seven times. That meant that they would march around the stadium seven miles a day praying. It was just like at the Wall of Jericho. The people that put it on -- the church and everybody -- fasted and prayed for 27 days before the show. I think that is why it was so successful -- the people were very obedient and they really wanted God to work, and He really did.

"They've asked us to go back in November, but we had to cancel two shows up here to play that one in September. I didn't want to cancel anymore shows here in the U.S. I hope that their date changes when they want us to come back, so that we'll be able to go back and do another show there and then go to Rio and do the 'S.O.S. For Life' there in Rio."

**Wow! Praise God! So, this is like a ministry thing that the church down there, or churches, are putting on?

"Yeah, there's one guy -- we call him Pastor Steve -- that organized all of it, every bit of it. He had got the cooperation of a lot of different churches and organizations, and talked to the governor down there and got the stadium for nothing. He's worked out the details. They were broadcasting from helicopters and everything else. I wanted to be brought in on the helicopter and jump out of the helicopter and into the audience, but there was a law about jumping out of flying

objects, or something. They wouldn't let me do that. But I thought it would be a pretty spectacular way to begin the show."

"I wanted to be brought in on the helicopter and jump out into the audience, but there was a law about jumping out of flying objects."

**They may not have caught you.

"Even if they didn't catch me, they were crammed in there so tight somebody would've had to have cushioned my fall."

**That is so cool. I've really had a -- I guess you could call it a burden. I hate to just throw out a religious term like that, but I've really had a vision. I know that like the "Rock in Rio" festival -- you know, 200 to 300,000 people are going to that. And I've just heard that there is just a great hunger for any Western music there, cause you have the kids, they buy these Metallica tapes and they buy bootleg rock 'n' roll tapes all the time and they are just going to flock to any good Western band

that shows up. So I knew that Christian metal bands, that there's a ripe harvest field there, and you guys got to go in and see it first hand.

"Well we were definitely in the beginning -- we were blessed enough to be at the beginning of this revival. I hope that our schedule works out to where we can go back and actually participate and work with what's going on. And it doesn't even have to be 100,000 people. The people down there are so friendly. They treated us better than any place we have ever been in our lives. They've got a real spiritual hunger, and I would love to go down there and do a church tour, and do what the Bible says and feed the sheep. I'd like to be part of it. I've been praying that the Lord would send revival and that He would send me. I didn't tell Him which country, but He picked Brazil. You got to be careful what you pray, because sometimes the Lord says, 'Okay, you want to go somewhere? I'll send you somewhere.' So, we're ready to go."

**That's cool. I heard a couple of things about Latin America from a missions course I took. One is that the mantle of missionary work is going to be handed off from the American shoulders to the Latin American shoulders. For one, like in Muslim countries, Americans can't just go freely and work, because they're hated. But Latin American people have that access. And in the revival that's happening down all over Latin America, I heard a statistic this year that 30,000 people are being added to the church every day. And that's, like, outrageous. So, something's going on down there. There, Africa and China are experiencing incredible revival.

"That's unreal. I would love to go to Japan and some of those other countries; but, you know, right now we're just kind of waiting on distribution, because our distribution in the country is real hard. We don't have any in Brazil. We took 2 or \$3,000 worth of merchandise down there and, instead of selling it, the pastor bought it from us for what we were going to sell it for. He just gave us the money and said, 'I will sell it for you, don't worry about it. You've got to worry about your show.' So, it's just pretty amazing the way the people work down there."

**I hope doors keep opening for you so you can just do all that stuff down there.



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Continued on page 22

IF BUT FOR DETRITUS

England's Detritus supports the ancient opinion that the world is flat. It seems that their second album fell off the edge of the planet on its way to America. Columbus' skeptics might have been right.

If But For One was finished almost two years ago, but it has yet to pierce the ears of Christian thrashers in the States. Lack of distribution and management, coupled with new found interest among the different band members led Detritus to call it quits.

"It's been one and a half years since we recorded the album, and it's now just coming out. So we've been getting no letters, no anything," explained bassist and singer Mark Broomhead. "Music For Nations in England didn't do the second album, so that means we got no pushing, no touring, no reviews, no anything. It just seemed pointless at the time.

"Our drummer has gone to London to do a two year course to be a youth worker in a church. The guitarist has gone off to do an art degree, and I'm in college myself as well studying video production -- that kind of thing. It's like there's a few hundred miles between all of us, so that's not really practical."

Broomhead expressed that there are no hard feelings between him and his band mates.

"We could get back together tomorrow if we felt like it, you know. I mean, maybe we will one day if we're all still alive, and we can still play. It's just not practical at the moment."

Detritus' new album, which was commented on in the 1992 *Heaven's Metal* interview with the band (printed in the May/June issue -- #35 of *HM*), continues in the same thrash mode as their first album. There are a few surprises though.

"There's a sea shanty called 'Sailor's Farewell.' It's a bit different. Having sax on a thrash album is a bit different I suppose. It's jazz sax, not like rock sax," explained Broomhead.

"There's a bit more acoustic guitars used with the heavy guitars. Earl (Morris) the guitarist does a bit of the vocals on one of the songs called 'If But For One.' There's a little bit of bluesy guitar on it. The album's a lot more

professional."

Lyricaly, the album takes on a new direction. "I'd say it's more honest, if anything," said Broomhead. "It's not so idealistic, but it's from the heart. It's written from the perspective of people who know God.

"It's still angry stuff. It's less of the 'You are gonna go to Hell' bit, if you know what I mean. It's been so long since I've even listened to it, it's like freaking



MARK BROOMHEAD

me out trying to remember it," laughed Broomhead.

Even though Detritus is now defunct, Broomhead continues to pursue his musical interests with Simon Bibby of the also defunct Seventh Angel. At one point during the life spans of Detritus and Seventh Angel, Broomhead was playing bass for both bands. Ironically, the two bands broke up on the same day.

Broomhead will play bass on Bibby's solo project. He has high expectations for this new venture. "Hopefully what's going to happen -- we're trying to get a band together to record the album. Then afterwards the name will change. We'll work as a band; write as a band. And there'll be a new band if you know what I mean," explained Broomhead.

The tentative name for the new band is Amaranth, which is a word used in poetry to describe an imaginary purple flower that never fades. The musical style of the band will be different from the previous Seventh Angel/Detritus projects. "It's not quite as heavy really," described Broomhead. It's still got the elements to it which are heavy, but it's a lot more thoughtful and somber, I suppose.

"We should be recording an album within the next six months. So it will probably be out in about three years with the way things usually go," laughed Broomhead.

With the many frustrations and disappointments experienced in the last year and a half, God has been able to teach Broomhead some important and valuable lessons. "I've learned that bands aren't really important," laughed Broomhead. "Well they are, but there was a point in my life when the band was more important than anything else.

"(The break up) was a personal learning experience to let me get in perspective -- made me able to let the band go when it wasn't anything, if you know what I mean. It almost seemed like it was the meaning of everything at one point, but it isn't at all, because it was totally out of perspective."

Along with this newly acquired knowledge, he has also learned the importance of a personal relationship with God.

"Well, I found the big problem is when a band splits up, sometimes members -- they almost base their faith in God around the band's situation. They hold each other up too much, and the important thing is you and God have got to have a personal relationship. And it doesn't matter what anyone else says, it's got to be you and God sorting everything out personally.

"You can't hold on to your church or your band or anything like that. That's very important, because I've seen far too many people fall away because they just can't do it on their own anymore."

By the time this story reaches your eyes, the Pinta, Niña, Santa María and the Detritus (by the grace of God) will have reached the shores of America. Maybe the world is round after all.

HM

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DECISION-D

IN YOUR FACE

by Andrew Crump



There's no beating around the bush with Decision-D. In fact, the band has leveled the small plant with its Thrash, Latin, Jazz and Death Metal influenced album, *Moratoria*. From the humble beginnings in 1986, where the band played anything from Bob Dylan cover tunes to "making as much noise as you can," to the latest well-crafted, haunting and soul-shaking release, Decision-D has arrived with something to say. Pay attention as vocalist Edwin Ogenio shares a piece of his heart.

"*Moratoria* has one major theme -- this world is heading for a meltdown. A lot of my lyrics are inspired or taken from Revelation and the Old Testament prophets. This record is a warning meant to make people think about their lives and future.

"There's a song on the album called '**Bastard**,' which is about the horned one. This song is filled with anger. It says, 'I suffered all my life because of you. I hate you. I hate you.' It hurts when I see what Satan is doing to people, so I do hate him and I take a stand against him. The lyrics of the album are like this. They're personal and confronting.

"'**Slaughterslice Atmosphere**' is about the flesh-mutilating Christians, the ones who bite and fight and cause divisions. If Christ wants us to be free, why do Christians bite each other because of things like clothing or music? Remember, Christ called us to be free. If Christians love each other, the world will see that Christ is for real. If they don't, the world will have a

distorted picture of Him. That's our responsibility. The same theme can be found in '**Social Darkness**.'

"Last week I saw a documentary on Dutch television about the case of the mother of James Vance against Judas Priest. She blamed Judas Priest for the death of her son and his mate, but wasn't willing to admit her responsibility. This family suffered from a lot of 'social diseases,' and the seeds of some lyrics of Judas Priest found fertile ground. Of course, it was clear that the death-wishing lyrics of Judas Priest stimulated these two guys to shoot themselves, but the roots of the problems were in the family already, not in the lyrics.

"We are responsible. Don't blame the devil or whoever for something you caused yourself. We must be honest and willing to face the consequences of our deeds, both good and bad."

With such confronting music and the bold witness of this intense band, one may wonder what the public's reaction has been to the in-your-face message of Decision-D. "Most people think like this: 'Who cares about the message. I wanna hear great music.' Of course, some people are a bit suspicious because we're Christians, but we've won the confidence of most of them because good music is good music. People of the press did have their questions in the beginning, but since they've met us, they accept us. No problem.

"But most of all we're thankful that via our albums, many people have heard the Gospel and

accepted Jesus Christ as Lord. It's a great blessing to see that happen."

Decision-D is involved in a music scene where evil has a tendency to run freely. How does a Christian band avoid the immense temptations that the evil can place on someone?

"I think that the biggest temptation is not particularly a Death Metal danger. We've seen many Christian bands which members don't have solid relationships with God. Christ wants us to have our identity in Him and not in other things like making a career. Many musicians have their identity in music, and when they enter the music scene they are not strong enough to stay on their feet. Many musicians don't even attend church. You get a lot of rejection, and it'll blow you away if you're not standing firm.

"I'm a pastor of a church called God's Pleasure. There are two basic things we teach the people: God calls us to be free and to use our freedom to serve one another in love -- Galatians 5:13. And second, God loves us for who we are, not for what we do. The main goal of God's Pleasure is to teach people about God's love so that they're able to accept themselves for who they are. Based on this foundation, one is able to grow to maturity.

"I used to be a proud man. It took the Lord a lot of time to make me really understand that He wants to be worshiped in Spirit and in truth. Since I finally learned to face myself in the mirror the way I really was, Jesus was able to change me. When you're not willing to do this, misery will pass your way while you blame others for it. Responsibility -- that's a hard thing for many people. Christians included." **HM**

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Holy Soldier -- Looking For The Next Train

By David Mutillo

During the mid 80's glam was king in L.A. and then glamour boys Holy Soldier rode the crest of that wave to the top of the Hollywood club scene. At the time Holy Soldier was so popular that at Gazzari's, one of L.A.'s premiere night spots, only Van Halen had drawn a larger crowd.

Five years and two albums later with a different image and having had two different vocalists, one wonders where Holy Soldier is headed for next. And that is just why Heaven's Metal caught Holy Soldier bassist Andy Robbins to find out.

Since you released *Last Train*, Holy Soldier has underwent a couple of line-up changes. Why don't you start by letting us know who is currently in the band?

"There's myself, Terry Russell, Michael Cutting, Eric Wayne and Scott Soderstrom. Basically, all we did was bring Mike back when Jamie (Cramer) left and bring Eric back when Steven (Patrick) left."

Why did Michael Cutting decide to rejoin the band?

"He had some things he wanted to get out of his system. He'd been in Holy Soldier for about three years before we did the first record. He just wanted to do a different style, kind of a single guitar player thing a la Van Halen. He was able to get that out of his system and reflect back on what he wanted to do musically. And we had to keep continuing on. It just worked out perfect.

"David Zaffiro was in town and he was getting together with Mike and he said, 'Why don't you cruise on down?' We just started talking, telling Dave what we were doing musically and what we wanted to accomplish. Mike said, 'Yeah, that's kinda what I'm into.' At the time he wasn't planning to go 100% with music still. And he asked what we were doing. Were we looking for a guitar player, or were we gonna be a one guitar player band? I said, 'No, Holy Soldier is a two guitar player band. We're looking for a guitar player.' Then I told him we had some dates booked and would he be interested in filling in and playing some shows. And he was totally blown away that we would ask him. So, we went out and did a three week tour. Once he got a taste of the road and where our song



Left to Right: Terry Russell, Scott Soderstrom, Michael Cutting, Eric Wayne, Andy Robbins (seated)

writing was going, he said, 'I'd love to come back to the group.' And we said, 'Dude, your spot's open!'"

The obvious question then is: Where is your song writing going?

"We are keeping our sound, but we're incorporating that with the more real sound we had just before we were signed. We'd like to have a more live, high-energy sound on the record, as opposed to the more controlled sound we had on the first record. Our songs are a little darker and more intense. We're trying different things with our arrangements. If it sounds good, we're just gonna do it. A lot of our songs are over five minutes. Right now we're experimenting. We're in no rush to jump into a third record and get back out there. The whole music industry is upside down right now. College music is the main thing now. And, as artists, we want to keep our integrity. We don't want to go out and sound like Nirvana just to get airplay."

So, what have you written since *Last Train*?

"We've got about ten really good song ideas. With five or six weeks of pre-production, we'd be ready for our next record. We want to have our songs written and play 'em live and see what people think of 'em before we record them. Usually we write the songs and then the next day we record them. I think this will give our songs a different feel."

What's been going on outside of Holy Soldier for you guys?

"I've done some dates playing bass for Die Happy and now I'm gigging with Circle of Silence (with Larry Farkas and the former singer from Accept and the former drummer from Hurricane).

"Michael and Terry have a blues project on the side doing old Stevie Ray Vaughn, ZZ Top, bluesy Led Zeppelin for fun. They're really good. They do a gig a month or so.

"I've heard Eric has done some stuff up in Seattle. I think he did a show with somebody, some studio stuff. It gives us a break from each other."

What about a record deal for Holy Soldier?

"We're working on a contract with a label. We're recording some songs for them right now. And we'll see how they like them. The company's really into Holy Soldier, but they don't know what Eric sounds like. We have deals overseas pending. We should really know something around the first of the year.

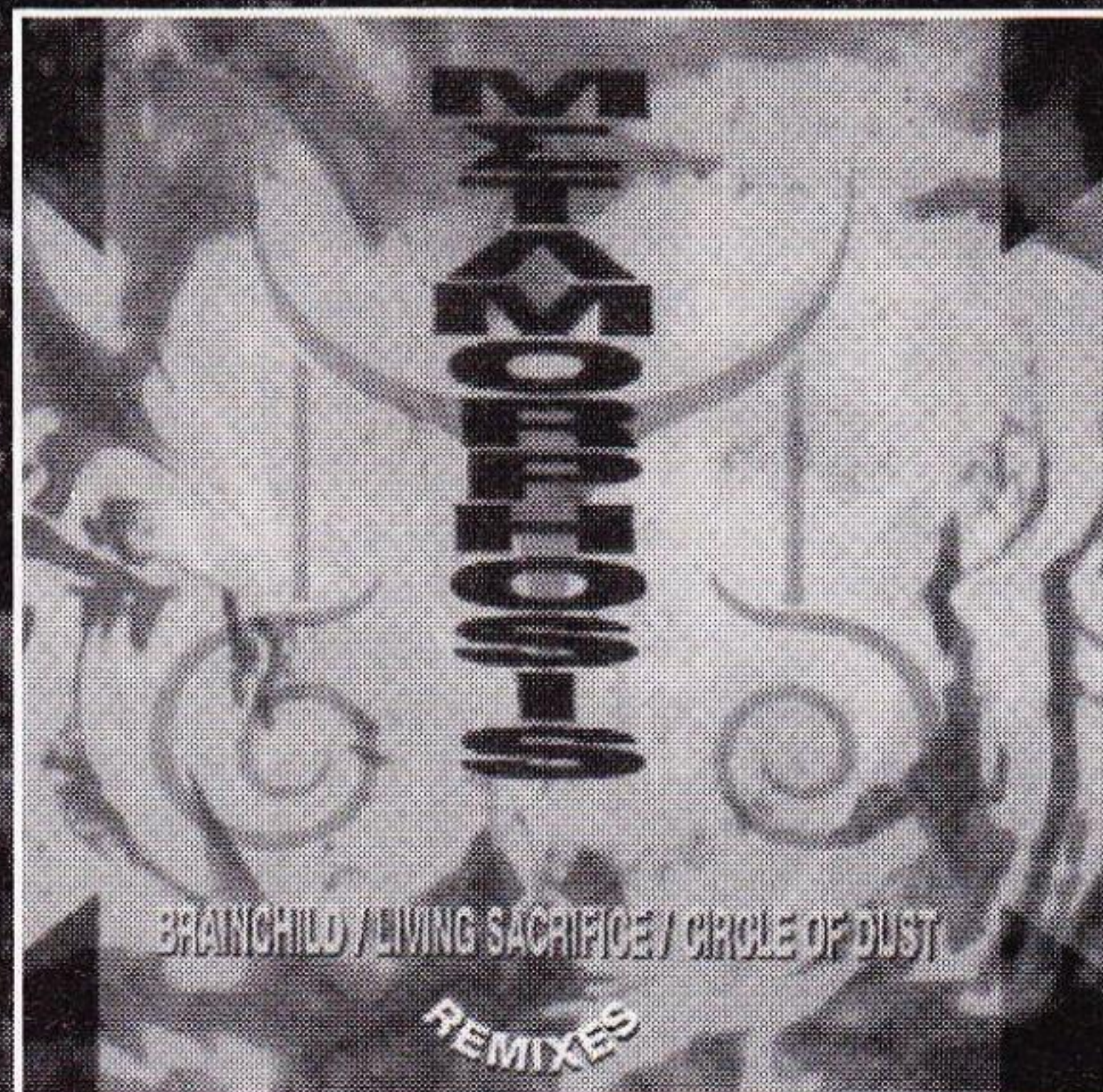
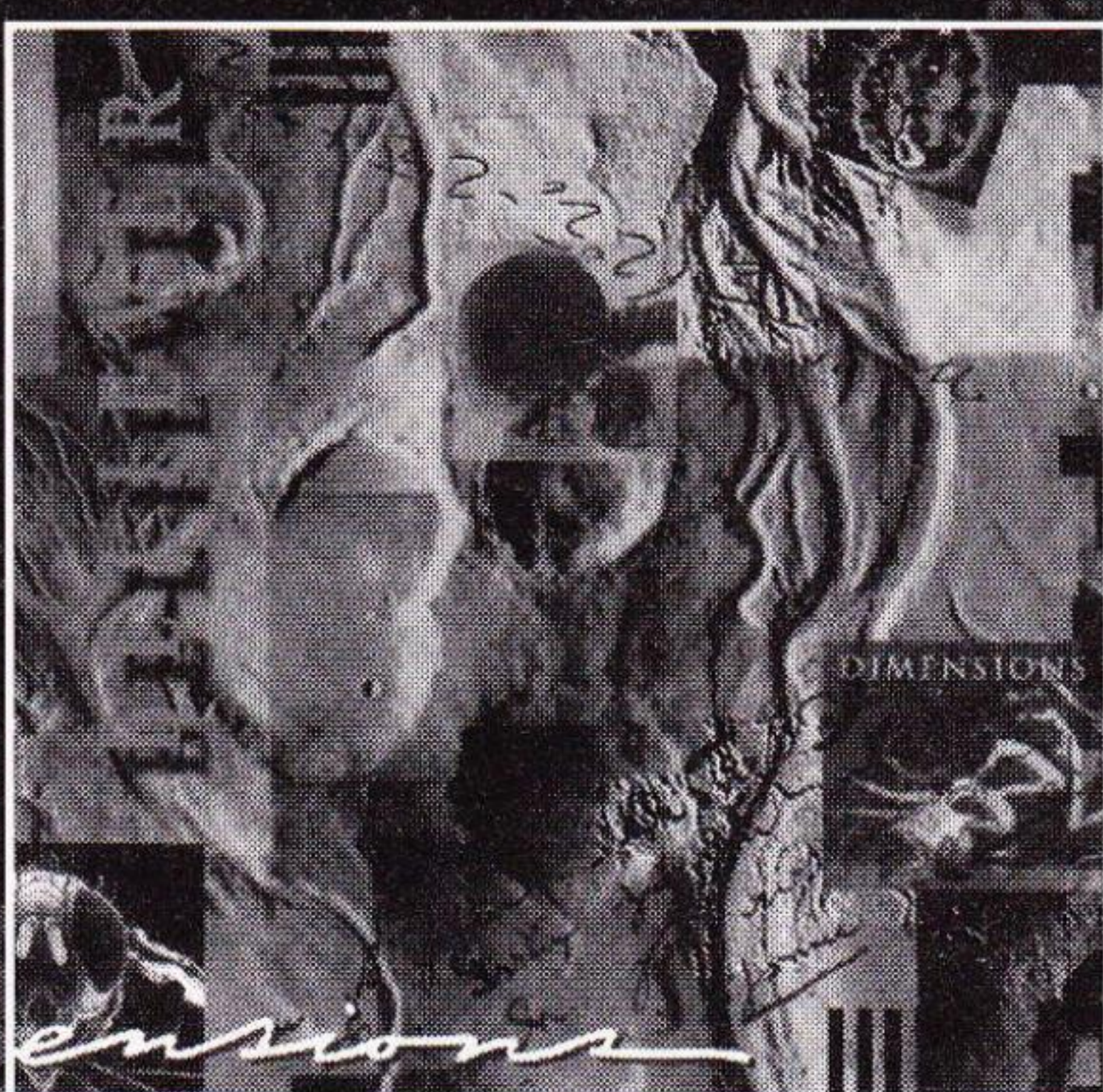
"We're also planning on putting out a home video. It's gonna have footage of us on the road, and overseas, and in the studio and some live things and our two videos -- 'See No Evil' and 'Last Train.'"

If all goes as planned, by the time you are reading this, we should know whether Holy Soldier will soon be inking a new deal soon and, along with that, when we might expect a new album.

HM

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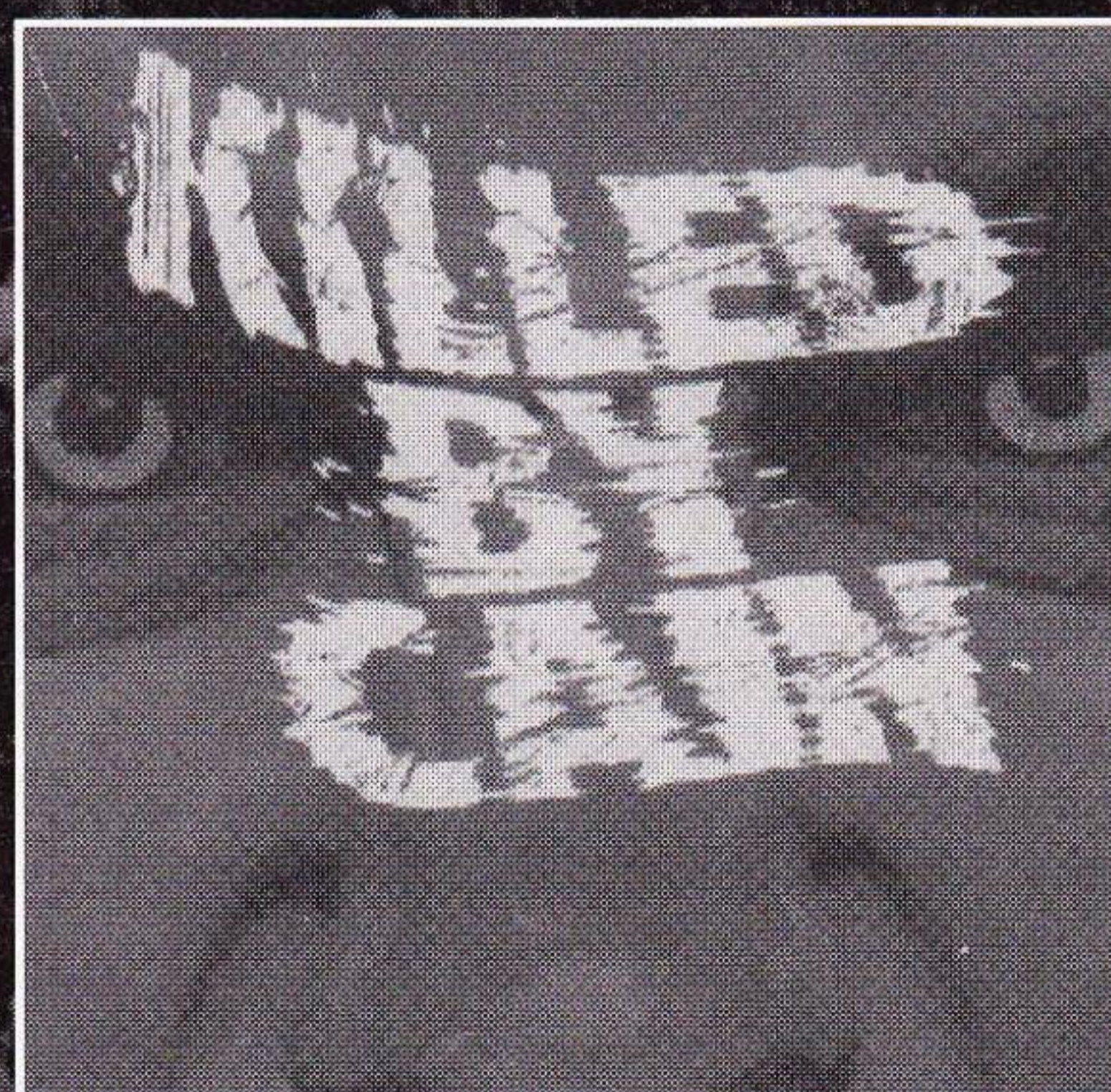

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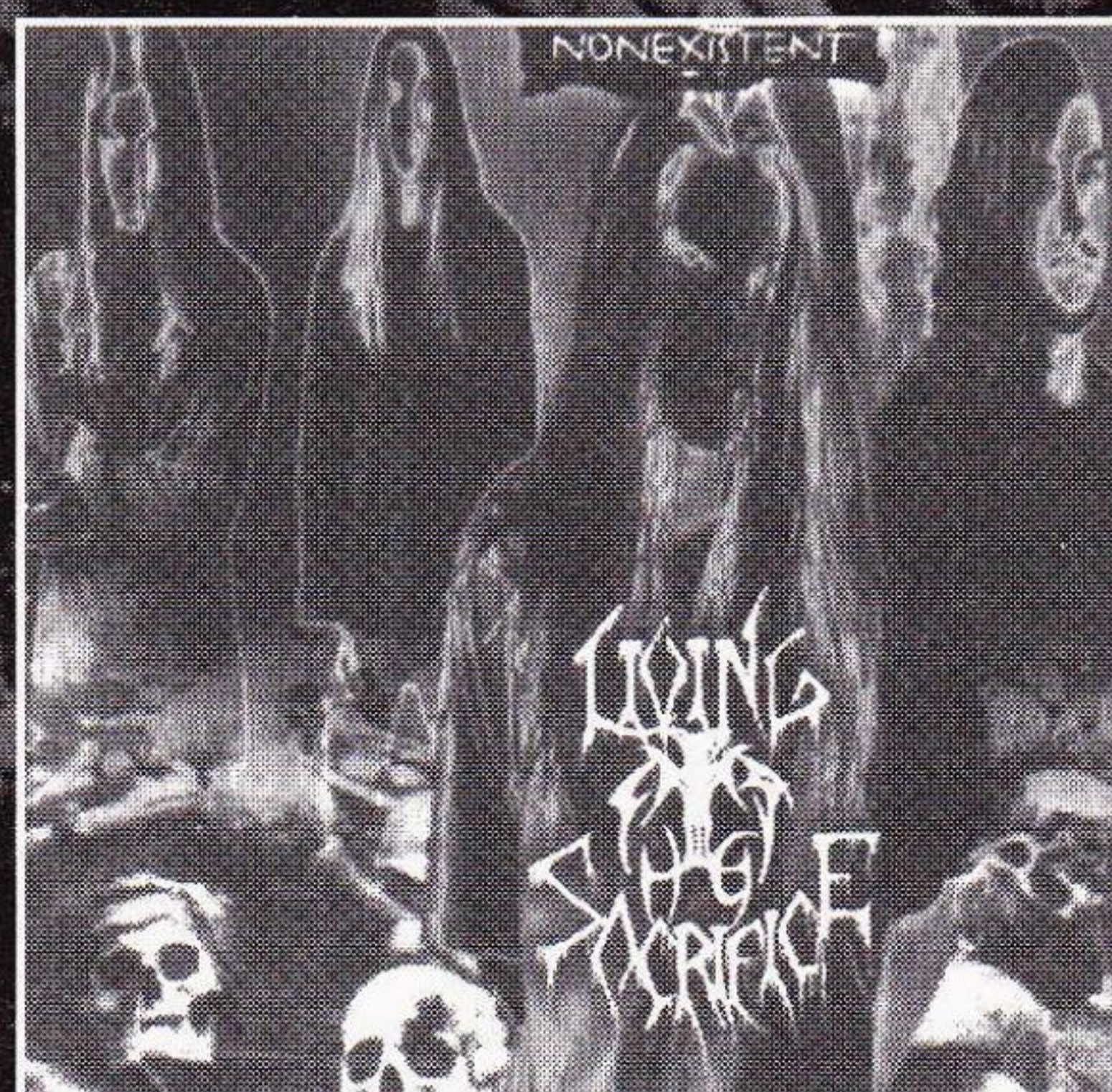
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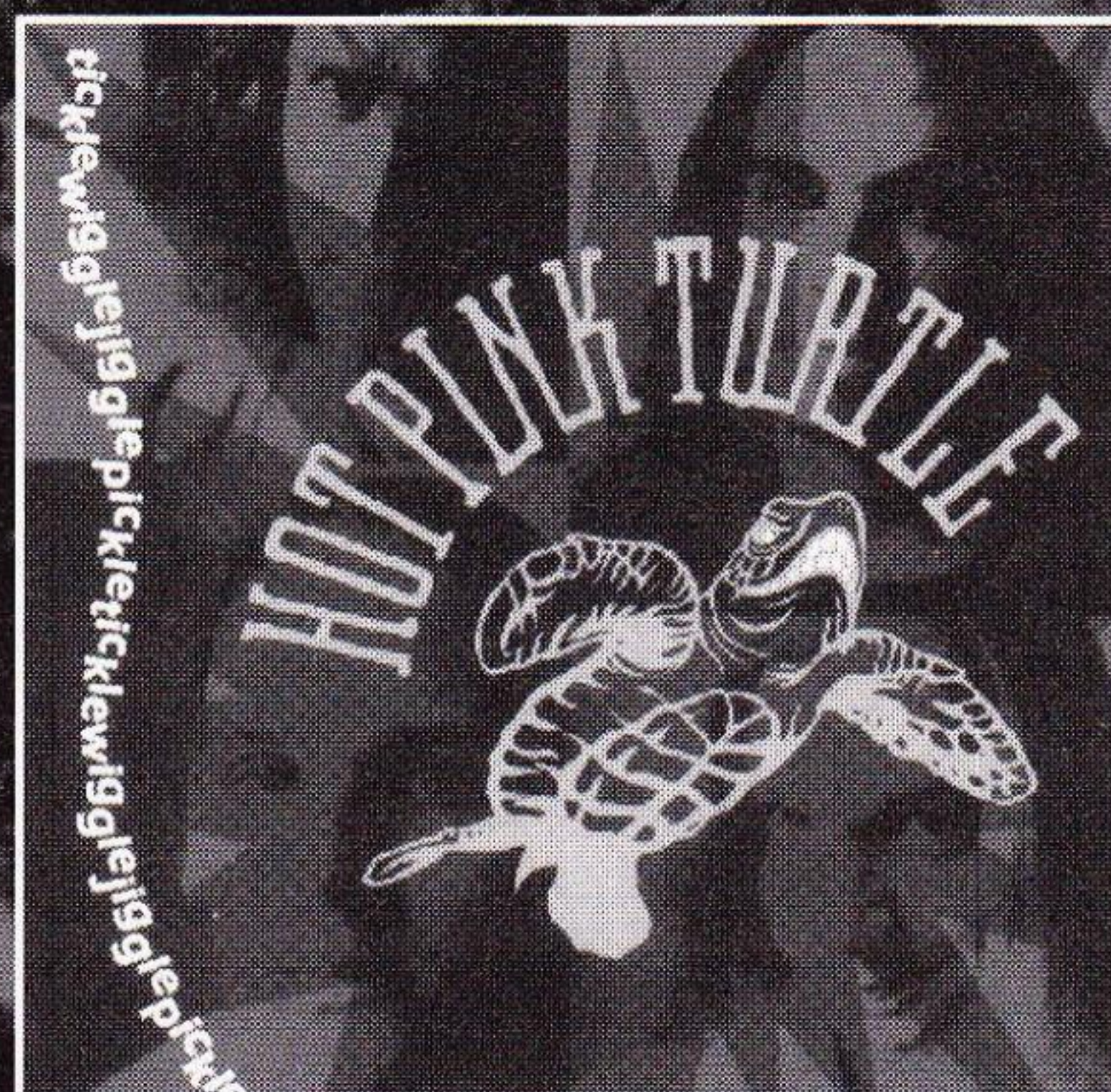
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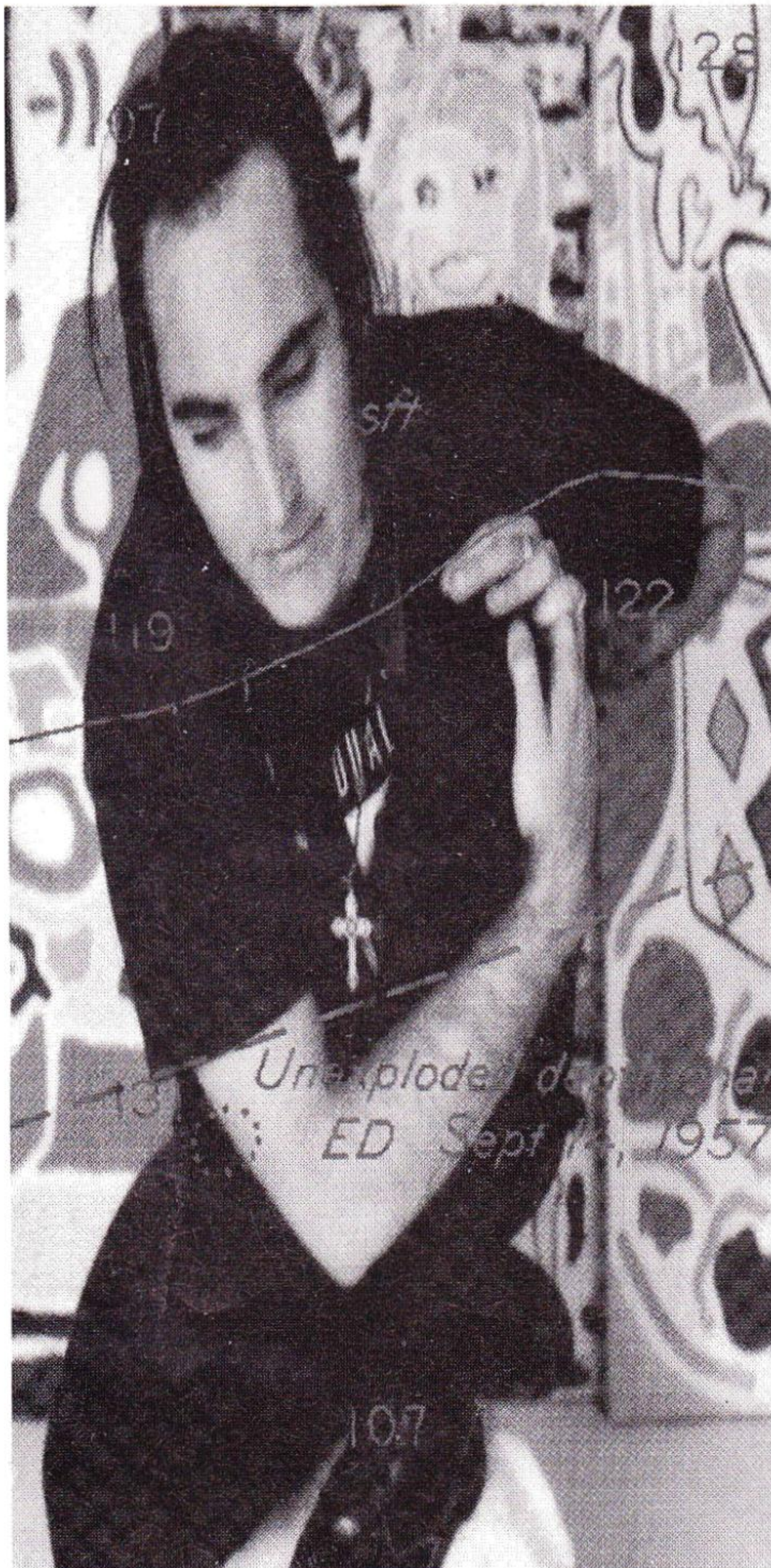
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The Controversial Mike Knott

By David Jenison



As a pioneer of Christian music in the early 80's and as a pioneer still today, L.S.U. front man Mike Knott has been criticized, admired, respected and condemned, only to continue as the industry's most mysterious artist. With a new L.S.U. album, solo album and record label, it was time for Heaven's Metal to clear some of the smoke and find out what Mr. Knott is really all about.

Tell me about the new L.S.U. album?

"It falls in line with the regular L.S.U. material, but there is more care taken in the production because of Gene Eugene's influence. The new music could be described as being more psychedelic, though, for lack of a better word.

"In terms of lyrical content, the new album is a little more forward in dealing with issues. The song 'She Can Sell the Shell' is actually inspired by this completely nuts apartment complex in Hollywood which Brian (guitarist) and I lived in for a while. There were these prostitutes that lived in the same complex that would always try to hit us up for a

trick.

"One week, the cops started busting all the hookers. To fool the police, they started dressing up as school girls. They would always take the Johns across the street to the back of the Kentucky Fried Chicken, and they would be back on the street within about 20 minutes. The girls were very skinny and very jacked up -- obviously on heroin or some kind of drug. Everything they did was for that drug to which to which they had become addicted. I doubt they even saw the guys they slept with. Instead, they saw themselves able to live and breathe and not have a heart attack because they could get a shot of heroin.

"Now, for a Christian to sit there and judge a prostitute is the most asinine thing a person could possibly do. We are talking about someone who doesn't even know how she is going to survive tomorrow. Either she will be shaking and sweating tremendously, or she will be fine because she got some heroin. It is fine to arrest prostitutes -- you can do that all day, but what are you doing to help them? Sure the trick is wrong, but to judge and condemn them for an act which saves their lives is a very strange judgement to make. Love God and love your neighbor are the greatest commandments, and these people were our neighbors. Should we throw the Bible at them and tell them they are going to hell if they don't stop turning tricks?"

How could we help them?

"Without a doubt, Christians need to be completely loving and understanding. We need to love them as people. Of course, in the case of a prostitute, it needs to be a female that ministers to her. When a man looks at a female prostitute, he will struggle between loving her as a person and loving her because she is beautiful.

"The prostitute topic actually arises from an idea which runs through the whole album. I believe that the ultimate fallacy of American Christianity is its effort to keep sex hidden, taboo and mysterious. Christianity raises children to young adults and then to adults in an environment in which sex is never talked about and is very misunderstood. This kind of sexual repression forces people to fend for themselves, which I believe is an underlying cause of many sexual sins.

"We should teach sex education in church rather than waiting around for the public school to do it. Sex is the biggest drive in media, saturating every-

thing from movies to billboards to music. How can the biggest tantalizing unit...ah...most tantalizing idea in our society be ignored by the church? Occasionally, people might browse over Songs of Solomon or go over some of the Proverbs, but most people will hear more about sex through gossip about the Christian girl that got pregnant than they will hear from the pulpit. I think that is wrong."

Over the years you have been criticized and condemned by many Christians who don't think you are spiritual or whatever. How do you feel about these people?

"I want them to know that I totally love them, and if criticizing me is exactly what they think they should do, then I love them for it. I do what I believe I'm suppose to do. If I didn't, then why am I talking about sex in the Christian press? Honestly, though, it does affect me sometimes, and I think some people out there will get a kick out of hearing me admit it.

"Nevertheless, if a person is going to talk about a particular person and name names, he has a serious identity crisis, and it has nothing to do with what God is leading him to do. The person feels that he is worthy of more importance in his life so he feels the need to break other people down. Eventually, those deficiencies will be filled, either through the person's downfall or someone truly loving that person for once in his life. Then he will cease breaking other people down."

What happened with Blonde Vinyl?

"We lost our distribution when Spectra folded, so we moved to Spring Arbor where we encountered more problems. The Christian industry has its own way of doing business, and that is, if you don't want to deal with something, don't deal with it. Don't talk about it. Don't return the phone call. In the real business world, they know not to burn the people below on the ladder because tomorrow they could be the boss."

So what about the new label?

"I have started a new label called Siren Records through which I will be releasing the new L.S.U., Michael Knott and Dance House Children albums. Furthermore, I am doing BV Productions,

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Getting To Know

By Elisa Mead

One of metal's heaviest bands has also caused more than a few people to question its stance on Christianity, which is a common topic in its lyrics. The band is Trouble and one way to get to know them better is by talking to one of its members. Listen in as Elisa Mead talks with guitarist Bruce Franklin about life, music, and the Lord.

****Did you write most of the material on the new album?**

"I mostly never write lyrics," answers Bruce, "but I always write music. I probably wrote a little more than half the music."

****It's a lot more upbeat and happy sounding.**

"After I got saved in 1988 my whole attitude in life changed and carried over to my song writing. It went from a doom-and-gloom mood to a brighter outlook and, while still heavy, it wasn't quite the same sad and doomy feel. It was more up-tempo and heavy."

****Do you think it is a contradiction to play doom metal and have that new outlook?**

"I saw people get saved from our lyrics at a time when there wasn't even a Christian in the band!"

"No, not at all. I don't feel it would be a contradiction; it's just that you've got to write how you feel, and that's how I felt. I know myself and the other guys never set out to say, 'Well, we have to write a song like this, so let's do it right now.' We just write songs, and what comes out comes out."

****Have you seen a lot of new**

fans because of the new material?

"Yeah, I think we made a lot of fans on the Pantera tour. My favorite song from the album, 'Memory's Garden,' hit a lot of radios across the country and that picked up fans. We're growing little by little."

****Before you were saved, how did you feel about the Biblical lyrics?**

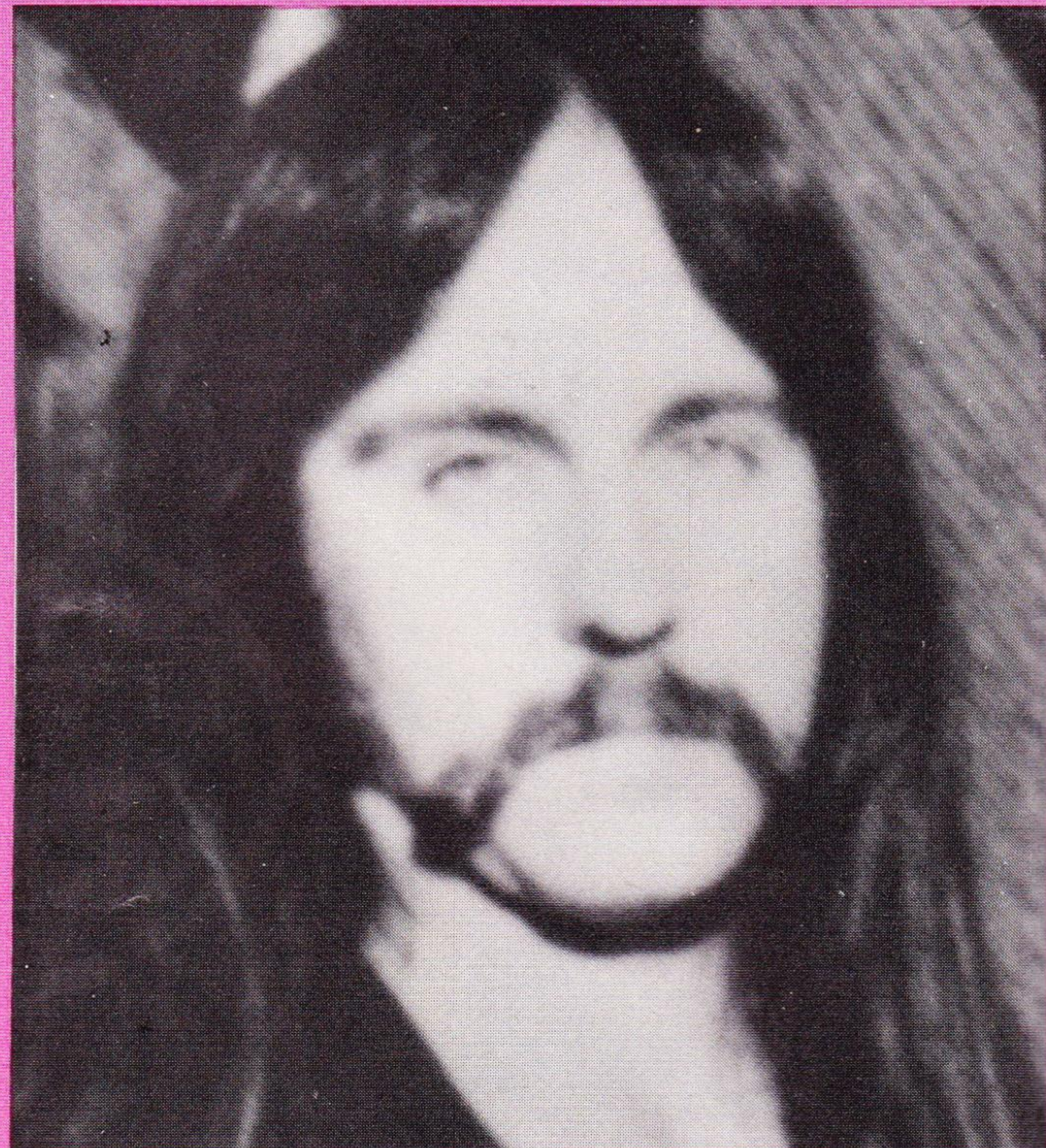
"I thought they were great. That was always a big part of Trouble and, in fact, I encouraged Eric to write like that. It was his idea to put Bible verses on the albums."

****What are some of your favorite bands?**

"I have a lot of respect for King's X. When I see them live it makes me want to just throw my guitar away. I like Tourniquet. I'm very picky about music. I go to Cornerstone every year and know a lot of people in my church who keep up with Christian music and hear most of the stuff."

****How did it come about that Tourniquet recorded one of your songs?**

"Originally, drummer Ted was a fan of the band. He actually joined Trouble in late '87. Ted auditioned and we ended up taking him. Part of the reason he was real interested in joining at the time was that we had a tour lined up and it seemed like things were happening. He joined and we rehearsed. We played a show in Milwaukee, but the tour that was supposed to be coming up fell through and it was like a real low point for Trouble all of a sudden. Everything was going wrong and there was no money and no tour and it was just a bad scene. Ted was staying with his parents in Milwaukee, because he was from L.A. and it didn't work out for him to hang on to something that wasn't materializing."



"That's how we got to know him, and now I see him all the time and we've become good friends. I'll add that at the time I wasn't saved yet either and I didn't know that he was a Christian. The guys in the band kind of joked around, wondering why he didn't drink or get high. Now we know."

****How has your relationship with Christ affected those things? Were you ever involved with drinking and partying?**

"Yeah, I probably got high every day for 10 or 11 years and that's a cool testimony to the power of Christ and the Holy Spirit; because when I got saved and seriously gave my life to the Lord He took it away. I guess maybe you don't realize it unless you've done it, but when you're getting high everyday for a decade it isn't very easy to just quit like that -- cold turkey. That's what happened, and it was no problem at all. It was all by the grace and power of God. Anyone else would be struggling big-time trying to do it on their own, and God just took that desire away from me, and from that time on I never got high again. It's amazing. It just blew me away. It has strengthened my faith that much more."

Bruce Franklin of Trouble

****What is your church like?**

“It’s called the Warehouse Church and we are coming up on our fifth anniversary. The people that started the church got the idea from the Sanctuary Churches out in California wanting to reach and minister to younger kids. That is the way it started and it’s kind of grown to all ages and families that go to it. It started at around 25 people. Now it’s probably 150. It’s non-denominational and we have a contemporary kind of light rock worship band.”

****Have you seen a lot of testimonies and people that have come to the Lord through your Christianity and the lyrics?**

“Yeah, definitely enough to make it worthwhile. In God’s eyes, I think, even one would be enough to make it worthwhile. That’s one thing that, after I got saved, kept me going in the band -- because I still believed in the lyrics and what the band was about and I saw people that got saved from lyrics from our records at a time when there wasn’t even a Christian in the band. That is amazing how God can use something like that.”

****You witnessed to me personally before I was saved. Do you do that regularly?**

“Whenever there is an open door and the time is right. You can say, ‘The time is always right,’ but it is however God wants to work in a situation. I talk to people all the time. I try my best to treat people as Christ would. I guess it’s how the Holy Spirit leads, you know. I carry tracts and stuff, and Bibles. Whenever I can I try to make an effort to talk to people and get a message across to them and get in a conversation that could hopefully change their life. It has -- enough times to make things worthwhile.”

****How did you come to the Lord?**

“Our original drummer, Jeff Olsen, who was on our first two records, got saved, and he quit the band. At the time, he thought he had to quit because he’d gotten saved, and he struggled with not getting high and stuff, and being

around it was tough for him. All the way around he decided that he had to leave the band. A few years later in late ’87 he was back home from school and we got together and he was witnessing to me and trying to get me to go (this was before the church started) to this Bible study and I kept blowing him off. Finally, after he kept persisting and bothering me about it, I was like, ‘Yeah, I’ll go to just get him off my back.’ I wasn’t planning to go and get saved at all.

"After I got saved my whole attitude in life changed and carried over to my song writing."

“I went, and God just touched me big time. It hit me like a ton of bricks. I was not expecting it at all. I didn’t get saved the first time I went, but something hit me. I started reading my Bible again and over what they were studying and kept coming back. There was a Sacred Warrior concert and I went to that and talked to those guys and they kind of helped it along a little more, and maybe a month or so after that first Bible study, I gave my life to the Lord. My grandmother was real involved in church and she taught me about Jesus and I totally believed in Him, but was just never committed to Him. I didn’t know what a personal relationship with Him was.”

****Do you hear testimonies on the road a lot?**

“I went to the last Sacred Warrior concert a couple of days before we left on this tour and a guy came up to me there and said that he got saved because of the first Trouble album. I was like, ‘Praise God!’

“We have gotten letters from people, too. It even made me feel great before I got saved. This mom wrote in to say that a song on *The Skull* called ‘**The Wish**’ helped her kid. Eric wrote it about a person who is contemplating suicide and is really depressed. It’s a long song, but in

the end the person turns to God as his answer and gets saved. This mom wrote in to say that this song changed her son’s life. He got saved and he was in counseling with a pastor. She was writing us to thank us. That is amazing. No one was even saved in the band at that time!

“That is what made me stick with the band after I got saved. I really thought that God could use the band. People always asked me, ‘When are you leaving Trouble, now that you’re saved?’ We have just talked about people that I wouldn’t have been able to preach the Gospel to if I hadn’t been in this band on the road and met them to do it.”

****With the success stories that you have had with Trouble, even when you were not a Christian band, does it ever make you want to be a ‘professed’ Christian band? Do you feel you would have more success this way?**

“If I did something like that, it would depend on who the people in the band were. I just know myself, that I am not the greatest speaker. I really think that the Sacred Warrior guys had a really good ministry. I would not be very good at that, but maybe whoever I was playing with would be. We’ll just have to see what God’s got in store. Maybe I won’t play or do any kind of music. I’ll go wherever he leads.”

****In your Christian walk, what is the biggest sacrifice you’ve had to make?**

“Probably getting away from hanging with all my old friends who I still loved and was still friends with. You can’t hang with people who are always drunk and stoned and you’re not. It’s just bound to sooner or later infiltrate your life. I’ll be the first to tell anybody who is a Christian not to turn their back on their unsaved friends, but I just had to spend less time with them than I used to, and that was probably the toughest thing. Only God’s Spirit can break walls, and you can’t force things on people. All you can do is talk to them and God has to do the rest.”

****How can Heaven’s Metal readers pray for you?**

“Pray for God to give me strength on the road and open up doors to talk to people, and pray for everyone in the band Trouble.”

HM

BRIDE Cont'd:

"Oh yeah. I tell you, it would be something to be involved in it full time down there."

**That's awesome. So why don't you tell me a little bit about Norway.

"Well, in Norway we went over - let's see -- that was a little bit more organized as far as that we knew we were going. We knew without a doubt that we were doing that show. I didn't know who was going to be there. So, when we got there we were met by Larry Norman, which was pretty intense because he's one of my all-time favorite Christian performers. He was in the bus that came to pick us up at the airport with the promoter. I had heard all these rumors of how sick Larry was, that he wasn't doing anything. And here he was touring Europe! He's just a real go-getter. Larry isn't well physically, but I guess he'll keep singing until his time comes, you know. But it was great to hang out with him. I had met him before but hadn't really sat down and talked with him and everything.

"Al Greene was there, which was really cool. He's kind of like the godfather of Christian soul music. It was a good show. It wasn't hundreds of thousands of people. It was just your basic Christian festival -- kind of a cross between Cornerstone and Creation, I guess. I don't think the numbers ran but about five or six thousand. But the town we stayed in looked like something off of a Hollywood back lot. It kind of looked like where Popeye would be. It looked all make-believe. The country was really pretty. It was probably one of the prettiest countries we ever went to. We didn't have the opportunity to actually give an altar call. We just spoke from the stage within the show. Actually I don't know what the numbers were that got saved at that two day event. I think it was actually more that two days, but we were just there for two days of it. It seemed to go well. The promoters seemed to really enjoy it. Once again we got to go to a different country which was really cool."

Wow! "Only five or six thousand?!?" I guess you can't help but see that as small after you've played for over 100,000 people at once! Look for Bride to go over the top this year, with a new album being produced by John and Dino Elefante, a cover story in the May/June issue, and more big shows. **HM**

Neon Cross Cont'd:

it further or anything like that. The whole reason that we decided that we would like to do it, apart from the fact that the Lord might be able to use us, is because there are good loyal fans out there that dug the band. They deserve more and they deserve to hear the stuff that we did. There are probably about five tunes that we had written before the last record was finished that we feel are better than the record that our fans never got to hear. So this record is for them."

Neon Cross is tentatively scheduled to record its second album the fall of this year. The band hopes to play some shows also. "I think Neon Cross definitely has a strong position in the Christian market, and we are planning to do church shows and festivals and these kinds of things," said Don.

As with the return of Barren Cross, things are still up in the air as to the future of Neon Cross. For now though, you can sink your teeth into the three new songs on *Premium Cuts*. "Everyone may absolutely flip over the new songs," said David. "Or they may listen to it and go, 'Gosh, well now we know why they disappeared!' You never know." **HM**

Mike Knott Cont'd:

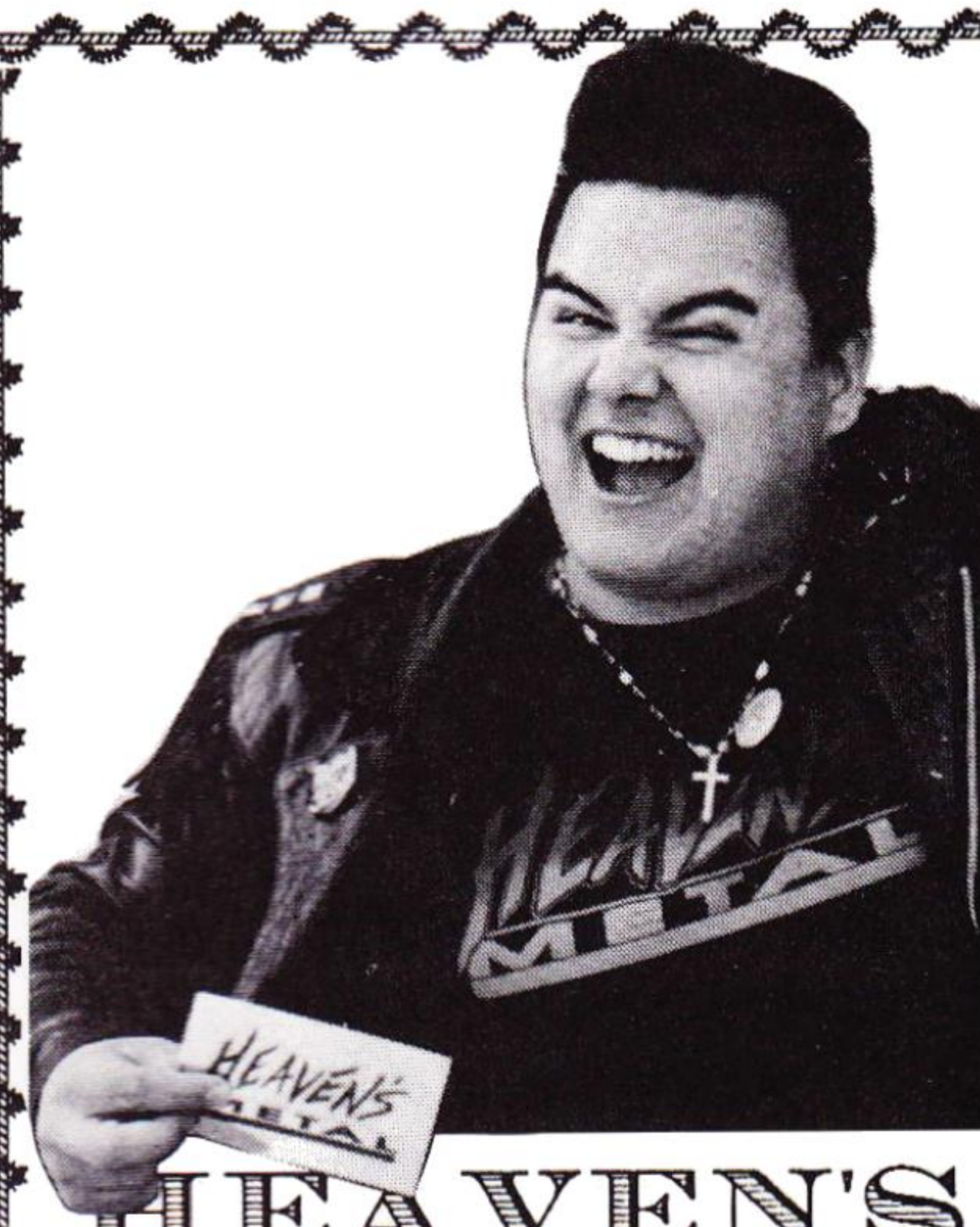
which is a production company for other labels. Right now I am doing an Unplugged Alternative album, and I did *The Definitive Radio Collection* of Blonde Vinyl hits, which was released on Broken."

How do you feel about the criticism that Blonde Vinyl put out too much product and that much of it was poor?

"In terms of quality, it depends whose standard you are using. Blonde Vinyl put out college music for a minute scale of people who wanted that kind of music. However, I will admit that we had too many releases, but we were not the only label guilty of that."

Any final comments?

"No matter how much nonsense, self-promotion or monologue that we feel is God's event in our life, we need to always remember to love God first and love our neighbor as ourselves." **HM**



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Gettysburg

At twelve o'clock noon on July the 3rd, 1863, the signal was given on Seminary Ridge for the Confederate artillery to begin shelling the Union line on Cemetery Hill, which was promptly responded to by the powerful Federal

batteries. On this, the third and final day of the most decisive battle of the war, men and boys fought and died for a cause they held dear . . . the love for their country. Many marched into battle, throwing down their weapon in order to carry the flag their fallen comrade had dropped. This courage . . . is fading . . . fading . . . fading . . .



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David Livingstone

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WHAT KISS SEZ:

Kiss is huge. Even today, after being around 20 years, Kiss is kickin' like a hungry young band with something to say. It's no small feat to keep a band going that long, especially when it's taken a band through its makeup phase, the disco era, and then having to earn respect on music without the aid of makeup. Kiss has influenced millions of listeners and hundreds of musicians -- including Garth Brooks, Extreme, Faith No More, Rage Against The Machine and Anthrax, who are all recording Kiss covers for an upcoming Kiss tribute album. Because of this huge influence the band has had on both the music scene and the teenage population, it's high time for Heaven's Metal to get on the phone with 'em for an interview. Listen in as guitarist Bruce Kulick answers da kwestions.

IS THE NEW ALBUM GOING TO SOUND SIMILAR TO THE *REVENGE* ALBUM?

"That's a good question," answers Bruce. "I would definitely say it's going to have a lot of the attitude. I hate to use the word 'heavy,' but I will say it's guitar and riff driven. It's kind of still early to talk about the new record, but I am excited to talk about it, because we have been spending a lot of time on material. Gene has quite a few heavy songs, kind of dark, heavy moody stuff. It's definitely going to be along the lines of *Revenge* in the sense that there's going to be a lot of riffs. It's certainly not going to be a pop record."

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE TAG THAT KISS HAS RECEIVED OVER THE YEARS AS BEING AN EVIL BAND, LIKE THE "KNIGHTS IN SATAN'S SERVICE" ACRONYM?

"We don't seem to get it as much. I know when I first joined I was shocked. There's no doubt that Gene in makeup and his whole image and what he was putting out on stage was certainly . . . to me it was more of a character from a comic book or something -- 'The Demon,' and 'Paul, the Star Child.' It was all incredible fantasy. Let's face it, it was like fantasy come to life for impressing kids. These guys were not in any way evil, and I knew that. It's just your stick to express yourself. It's your other side. It's kind of like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

"When I was on tour with them there was no makeup anymore, which really didn't make Gene very 'evil' anymore, if you know what I mean. To see

these people come out like that . . . I didn't understand it. Very religious people sometimes are frightened by things that they don't understand or they think it really is legitimately that way or they think that he's going back to his hotel room and sacrificing lambs in his room or lighting candles, when all we're doing is watching CNN and ordering room service. And hey, if he wants to have a girl in his room, that's his business -- he's not married. I never could understand it, but I guess it comes with the territory.

"I do feel that everyone should have the right to express, you know, what they want and what they're doing. Certainly nowadays there's things like 'Beavis and Butthead' and people like that which people are in uproar about that I think are even more intense than anything Kiss ever got into."

HOW DO YOU RESPOND TO SOMEONE WHO SAYS, "YOU NEED TO BE CAREFUL TO BE A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR KIDS, BECAUSE THEY SURE LOOK UP TO YA?"

"I understand that. I have relatives that are of the age that I would hate for them to take something from either Beavis and Butthead or something Kiss says too literally or seriously. I think kids are not stupid. I really think that they can decide where the edge is and where not to fall off -- if they're smart. It doesn't take a lot for them to be smart.

"Your friends saying, 'Yeah, let's do something stupid!' I think peer pressure and things like that -- those are more evil than bands or Beavis and Butthead. There's always those elements that are going to draw you into bad kids that don't know anything but to be bad. I don't think it has anything to do with groups. Some of the rap music is a little extreme, I've got to admit.

"Take Body Count's song 'Cop Killer,' for example. I would hope they're understanding that it's artistic freedom and talking about that they're frustrated about cops being bad to black people, so that's



L to R: Paul Stanley, Eric Singer, Gene Simmons, Bruce Kulick

why they want to sing about killing a cop. I don't think that's really right, but I would hope a black kid doesn't take that seriously and want to kill a cop. Just like if we're talking about love being great and babes being cool, that you don't -- in the day of aids -- go out and sleep with every girl you meet and be promiscuous. We're not trying to tell anybody to do anything.

"You turn on television and it's everywhere. Sometimes the more you keep it in the closet or try to lock it up under lock and key, the more they want it. Obviously, if they choose it, I think it has more to do with something lacking in them as a person. They need to understand that they need to grow. (It's) not the fact that they're exposed to it. It's everywhere. If you're a parent, you never curse in front of your kids. What, do you think they don't hear curse words in school? They do. The kids love to talk about it, because they know it's something that's bad. I'm aware (that) you guys . . . it's like a Christian rock magazine, right?"

YEAH.

"I'm sure you probably deal with a lot of these issues. I still really feel that the most important thing is that love (from) parents and giving them the kind of understanding that keeps a kid from choosing what's right and what's wrong and making their choices in life. I think

we're living in a very difficult time. I think things are more complicated than they were 20 years ago."

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT SOMEONE MIXING VERY HEAVY MUSIC WITH VERY HAPPY LYRICS OR ATTITUDE?

"In some ways, it doesn't really work. I don't know why. To be honest with you, I wasn't a fan of Stryper. More so, because it was just too -- forgetting the lyrics, because I don't always listen to lyrics -- it was just too pop for me to begin with. Even though they were playing crunchy guitars and everything.

"I look at The Beatles as a great example. You can't have a better songwriting repertoire than a group like The Beatles. Like, when they did 'Helter Skelter,' the music represented kind of like what they were singing about. You don't wanna sing 'Black Bird' over those kind of chord changes, with the guitars distorted and all. In good songwriting, this has nothing to do with religious songs or not. In good songwriting, I always feel that the chords and the attitude of how you present that does have an influence on what you should be singing about. They have to kind of fit."

YOU KIND OF TOUCHED ON MY NEXT QUESTION. I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU WHAT YOU THINK OF THE CHRISTIAN ROCK MUSIC YOU'VE HEARD.

"I tell you, the only band I'm really aware of is Stryper. You know who I am a big fan of, that I'm aware are born again Christians, is King's X. I think they're excellent. I know the whole band feels this way -- Gene is a big fan and so is Paul and Eric. We're very disappointed that they weren't really able to break. I'm not sure why. I know it doesn't have anything to do with (being) Christian or anything like that, but they're excellent. They're really excellent. Great guitarist, good songwriting. I hate to say it, but could it be that because they didn't come out with aggressive enough music maybe? You don't know. I don't think they're over. I think if they keep doing it something will happen.

"I think that right now kids are responding to -- like I referred to before, it's a very difficult time right now. The way the world is. Things are pretty out of hand in some ways, between the riots in L.A. and the economy. You still have war over in Europe. Certain things have gotten better, but certainly domestically people are tighter financially and I think the whole race issue is way more extreme now than it ever was, maybe. I think that's why bands like Nirvana and Pearl Jam -- moody, kind

of like darker, tougher bands -- have exploded. You notice that a lot of the fluffy, kind of pop rock groups are history.

"It does go in cycles. You'll see, there'll be a huge band in the 1990's that is going to sound like Journey probably, and I like that kind of music too. I do like Nirvana and Pearl Jam and that stuff, but you look at where the bands are at that are selling lots of records right now and you realize in some ways the kids don't want 'Mr. Cool Groovy Rock Star' that's got poofy hair and is singing about love and roses. The only bands that are singing about love and stuff like that are kind of like quirky hippie looking, and that's rebellious.

"It just seems like a lot of the bands that really make it big are on the edge. I don't think you have to be, but lately they seem to be one step in the grave kind of thing. That's why I always think that Christian rock is kind of like two opposite things; although I don't think that you have to be a heroin addict to be a

"I don't consider myself a very religious person."

talented musician and be in a famous rock band, but it sometimes kind of goes with the territory. I think Kiss is an excellent role model in the sense of, at least the current Kiss, being four guys who just love playing music and are very straight. You're not going to find one of us in the gutter, because we just love our lives the way we are and we don't need those crutches.

"People judge me. They say, 'Oh, he's the guitarist for Kiss. He must cheat on his wife. He must be a drug addict. He's probably so loaded that he doesn't give a [bleep] about anything. He has wild, drunken parties.' None of that's true, you see. A lot of these perceptions about rock and roll -- I can't say they aren't true (laughs). They're just not true for me.

"I'm not sure what's big in the Christian rock scene. Maybe there are some other groups, I don't know. I've always found that it's hard for me to get a grasp of that, although I don't have a problem with that. How do they deal with that? Playing music now that sounds so grungy too... So, how do you sing about your devotion to Christ or whatever it is that you are religiously speaking of, and the music's going, 'Dan-gung-gung-gung-

gung-gung' with all these D-tuned low chords? I mean, they really sound more like Godzilla walking down the block.

"I never look at any of the dark stuff being devil stuff, but of course there are bands that like to call themselves Death and Cancer and those kinds of words. I guess it's all to express themselves. It's all a matter of expression -- all this music. It really doesn't matter, as long as you're expressing yourself. I like to take in a lot of different music. There's something I always like in all of them. The bands I really can't deal with are some of those death metal bands. I don't get anything musically out of it. I think the kids that are into that... the only way they can communicate is they have their heads pounded. That's what they get from the music -- their heads are being pounded. I don't know. Are there any Christian rock bands that sound like Death?"

YEAH, THERE ARE.

"Are they just pounding them with Jesus, though?"

OR TALKING ABOUT HOW JESUS WAS MURDERED AND KILLED.

"That's interesting. None of those thrash bands have really broken anyway -- Christian or not. Still, all the bands that really are new and sound extreme still have songs. It's still a song. Stone Temple Pilots -- I think they're tremendous. Why? Because there are three or four songs on that first album that are really great -- really catchy, melodic, I can relate to it. The same thing with Pearl Jam's first record. Nirvana -- even though there's some tracks in there that give me a headache, there's great stuff on that record. That's the other key -- there's attitude, but you've gotta have a great song that everyone kind of falls into and it moves them. Maybe that's what King's X needs to do. I don't think they need to worry about talent. They've got it. It's that song that gets everybody.

"Alright. You got enough there?"

WELL, ACTUALLY I'VE GOT A COUPLE MORE QUESTIONS.

"Alright, let's do it quick."

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT JESUS CHRIST?

"How do I feel about... that's a good question. It's an interesting question. I mean, I'm Jewish actually. Although I married a Christian. She's not Catholic, but she's Christian. In fact, I was married in a Christian church. I had a rabbi present, though, too. I don't view Jesus Christ as God. I view God, the One above Jesus Christ, as my God. But I don't have

any disrespect for Jesus Christ.

"As a kid, there were Catholic school kids that used to try to beat up and chase me. 'Let's kill the Jew! He killed our God! He killed Jesus!' Which really makes you screwed up when you're growing up, because you're going, 'Huh? What did I do? Wait a minute! Jesus was a Jew! I don't get it!' Not to really get into a whole religious thing..."

"I say, 'He is the Son of God, but I view God...' I view them as kind of the same, although you may not; or someone who is very into Jesus doesn't. But, where my kind of inter-religious beliefs come from is really not the New Testament. It's really the Old Testament, but it's really all the same thing. It's still the Judeo-Christian ethics. I have them. I try to follow them the best I can. I don't like to lie and cheat and commit adultery and murder and all those things. I think that's all that really matters.

"Whether or not it's Jesus Christ or God or you want to pray to Moses or Buddha or whoever it is, I think as long as your senses realize that there is something greater out there and, regardless if you want to call it 'fear of Him' -- just respect of all that -- then do it. If you don't believe in any religion, I don't care. I don't have a problem with it. What I do have problems with is people who shake fingers at other people; and abortion, you know, and get crazy with all that. That stuff I don't like. I don't have a problem with Jesus. 'Jesus is just alright with me,' you know, The Doobie Brothers (laughs).

"I tell ya, Gene's the one you want to get into an interview with if you want to get into religious stuff, because he went to religious school when he was young. He'd chew your ear off with the [bleep]. It's too much. He gets into it, like ridiculous."

THAT'D BE FUN TO SIT DOWN WITH HIM SOMETIME AND GET INTO IT.

"I wouldn't want to be there."

HOW DO YOUR BELIEFS ON THIS AFFECT YOUR DAILY LIFE?

"Well, I just feel that I was brought up with the right ethics from my parents. Whether that's because I'm Jewish or it was from that whole Judeo-Christian thing, I don't think about it often. I know that sometimes, when I'm upset enough, I realize I've gotta relax. Sometimes you want to close your eyes and think about a higher state that you're feeling that there's somebody there that won't make everything really terrible for you. You've gotta have that feeling sometimes. I don't consider myself a very religious person,

you see what I mean?

"In some ways I do want to think that everything happens for a reason and maybe when something bad happens that it's God's will. So, I only think of it in those terms -- to cool me out. You hate going through life blaming people and events. You have to realize that maybe you're responsible. It helps me get through life. Like I said, I don't think I'm very religious, I'm just aware of those ethics that I grew up with."

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CLAIMS OF CHRIST, WHERE HE SAID, "I AM THE ONLY WAY TO THE FATHER, AND NO ONE COMES TO HIM BUT BY ME?"

"Umm. You're saying that, if I don't call Jesus Christ my Savior, then whenever that's supposed to happen, that I won't go?"

WELL, BASICALLY, I'M ASKING ABOUT THE CLAIMS HE MADE ABOUT HIMSELF WHEN HE WAS TALKING TO JEWS, THAT "I AM THE WAY TO THE FATHER. NO ONE COMES TO HIM BUT BY ME."

"See, I wasn't taught that kind of stuff. I went to Hebrew school and I was Bar Mitzvah-ed and everything. If you're growing up being taught nothing really about Jesus Christ, then none of that really makes sense to you. That stuff doesn't make sense to me and I don't... Again, I respect born again Christians and Christianity, but I don't buy that it's the way to believe. Just like I wouldn't tell a Buddhist, 'Hey, why don't you pray to God? Become a Jew and convert this way.' I think everyone should have their own thing, so that doesn't work for me. It's not like I hate you for it or I have a problem with it. I don't care. Just don't try to sell it to me. Jews don't go around trying to get other people to convert. The only time they want to convert someone is for marriage, when they realize, 'I want to be with them!' If you want to look at it strict: even if a woman does convert to Judaism, the child really isn't Jewish. You've got to be born Jewish or whatever.

"You telling me that . . . I didn't know about that, to be honest with you. I'm not a real expert to talk about it."

WHEN I BECAME A CHRISTIAN, I ALMOST OVERNIGHT HAD AN IMMEDIATE GREAT RESPECT AND LOVE FOR THE JEWISH PEOPLE, BECAUSE I SEE THEM AS MY PEOPLE NOW AND I'M PART OF THE SAME BIG FAMILY. I'D LOVE TO APOLOGIZE TO YOU FOR THOSE

CATHOLIC BOYS WHO TRIED TO BEAT YOU UP, CAUSE THAT'S...

"Well, thanks. I know what you're saying. That's all ignorance. I realize it too. I didn't understand it when I was young, but hey, while they were out busy being bullies, I was getting an education. I was sitting home playing guitar. I was doing good in school. Even if I didn't want to do good in school, I was fortunate that I had a God-given gift of music that somehow the guitar could kind of flow through me. I was doing that. I was sitting at home transfixed with this music and plugging into that. The kids that were running around beating up Jews, they're just bullies. They don't get it. They don't realize that they don't even understand the issue. I don't think even the person that was teaching them was teaching them that kind of thing.

"Alright, I've got to run now. Paul just called. We're supposed to get together to work. You've got enough there, I'm sure. Next time, all you've got to do is call Gene (laughs)." **HM**

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METAL TRACKS

Living Sacrifice is currently in preproduction for their next album, which reportedly will be recorded digitally for a precise and Believer-like tight feel to the band's heavy sound. Speaking of Believer, **Kurt Bachman** and **Joey Daub** will be producing the album -- due out in late April.

Dan Mariano, former vocalist for **Rage of Angels**, is putting together a solo album, which will include the players from the *Rage of Angels* album.

Tourniquet has a new guitarist, **Michael Russo**, replacing **Erik Mendez**. Michael is from San Diego.

Mortification's new (permanent) drummer is **Phil Gibson**. He can be seen in the new *Live Planetarium* video. Original drummer **Jayson Sherlock** plays on the live material and Phil plays on the "Grind Planetarium" concept video. The band will be recording a new album in April, tentatively titled *Blood World*, followed by a world tour.

Precious Death has been nominated for a total of 5 categories in the 1993 LA Area Music Awards, the most nominations of any band competing. The categories the band has been nominated for are: Best Male Vocals: **Christopher Scott**; Best Lyrical Content/Song Writing; Best Production: **Dino Maddalone**, **Dino M. II Studios**; Best Ballad: "One Day To Live" and Best Hook: "Shine."

Scaterd Few is going into the studio to do a new album. The band vocalist's real name is **Alan Aguirre**. He won't go by **Ramald Domkus** anymore. The new *Scaterd Few* album will be released independently by the band and the first 1,000 copies will feature a special autographed mini poster with a collage of band photos. **Intense Records** recently reissued the band's *Sin Disease* on CD.

REZ recently played in Dallas where **Roy Montroy** bumped into someone in the restroom who was attending a high school reunion in the next room. The guy asked Roy what the concert was about, and Roy went on to lead him to Jesus! You just have to be ready to preach the Gospel (in any and all circumstances). **Glenn Kaiser** will be joining **Darrell Mansfield** and **Larry Howard** for a killer all-out blues tour in Holland and Germany as this issue goes to press. The shows will feature both acoustic and electric blues.

April 15 to May 22 is the planned time slot allocated for the "Hardcore '94" tour planned with **Jesus**



LIVING SACRIFICE

Freaks and others. Modelled after the successful Lollapalooza traveling festival lineups, it will take place nearly across the U.S. and *Heaven's Metal* will be a co-sponsor. Look for styles like industrial, death, punk and hardcore preaching bands, along with local bands and pastors.

Benson Music Group has announced a special giveaway promotion in conjunction with the **Michael Sweet** album. They will give away 1,000 cassettes of this album 30 days prior to its release. Entries can be submitted by sending a postcard or letter containing the following information: name, address, age and the name of the media which printed the giveaway information (*Heaven's Metal*). The 1,000 winners will be selected from the entries received by Jan. 31. All other entrants will receive a \$2 off coupon for the purchase of the album. All entries should be sent to: Michael Sweet Giveaway, P.O. Box 23587, Nashville, TN 37202.

Scott Albert's Brainchild had its music used three weekends in a row on MTV Sports, including the "best of" show. The Fox Network also used the band's material on its "Music Scoupe" show as intro and bumper music. By the time you read this, R.E.X. Records will have given away 2,000 metal samplers to registrants at the CMJ (College Music Journal) Convention, as well as a split 7" with **Circle of Dust** and **Brainchild** material. After the convention **Circle of Dust** opened for **Cathedral** and **Fight**.

The Museum of Rock is being built and will display various styles of rock, including Christian rock. Each genre will have displays with instruments, pictures, clothes, albums, etc. of the bands in each section along with the chronologi-

cal history of each band.

Essential Record Group has signed Houston based **Imagine This**, who is in a Houston studio finishing up their debut, self-titled album slated for a February release. The band came to prominence several years ago as runners-up in **Star Song's** national artist search competition -- landing the group on *The 700 Club* and *GMA's New Artist Showcase*. After some changes in personnel, the band began to focus their direction on their two male vocalists and the song writing/production talent of the group's founder, **Daryl Youngblood**. The band's sound has been described as reminiscent of **Extreme**, **King's X**, **The Beatles** and other melodic, vocal-oriented funk rock groups.

Guardian's Miracle Mile album has just been released on **Sony Records** in Japan. The Japanese pressing features a nifty CD booklet with lyrics in Japanese and English coupled with an in-depth interview (in Japanese, of course) with founding member **David Bach** and an extended discography featuring press clippings dating back to **Guardian's '89** Japanese tour. **Guardian** was also featured alongside **Mr. Big** and **The Scorpions** in the current issue of *Burn Magazine*. **Guardian** will bring the "Miracle Mile Revue" tour to the Far East this Spring.

Bride's Jerry McBroom and wife **Pam** announced the birth of their second son, **Joshua Dylan McBroom**. **Dale Thompson** sang background vocals on the newest **Carman** and **Petra** albums. Now he's bugging producer **Brown Bannister** for a chance to sing on the next **Amy Grant** album. The next **Bride** album is tentatively titled *Scarecrow* and should be out in mid-Spring. The band has a new manager, **Steve Baker**, who used to

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manage the New Union club in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Steve also developed the band **PFR**.

Ken Tamplin has received some praise for his new album. It debuted on the Hit Parade Chart in Central America at #25. **Peter Frampton** says, "Tamplin is a musical masterpiece. It's simply brilliant." **Peter Criss** of **Kiss** fame says, "Killer songs. One of the best voices I've heard in years. I wish he was singing for me." **Dean Castronovo** says, "The new Tamplin album is incredible. Perfect vocals, intense guitar solos and songs to die for." Tamplin appeared alongside basketball greats **Patrick Ewing**, **Isaiah Thomas**, **Shaquille O'Neill** and others as guest on a Japanese radio special on rock and roll and the NBA called "NBA Calling." He was asked about his favorite team, player and then introduced his new single, "Don't Let The Sky Fall On Me." This song was also chosen by **Album Network Magazine** to appear on its sampler CD, *Album Network's Rock CD Tuneup*, alongside **Megadeth**, **Cowboy Junkies**, **John Hiatt** and others.

Broken Silence desires to do many live shows (especially outside the L.A. area). Interested parties may contact the band at (909) 391-4379 or write: PO Box 2122, Chino CA 91708-2122.

The Brave is going into the studio to record its sophomore album.

The new label mentioned last issue, **Tooth and Nail Records**, has signed some hot bands. The first one to come out is **Wish For Eden**, made up of **Rob Walker**, **Ed Bailey** (formerly of **Mortal**), and **Mike Ballard**. Their debut album is called *Pet The Fish*. The next two releases will be by **Focused** and **Plank Eye**. The **Focused** album, *Bow*, will be produced by **Jeff Bellew** of **The Crucified**. **Plank Eye's** *Spill* will be produced by the band and **Gene Eugene**. **Star Flyer 59** will come out in May, with a British noise pop album produced by **Mark Rodriguez**, plus **Gyro** and **Jerome** from **Mortal**. **Some-time Sunday's** sure-to-be-killer debut album, *Stone*, will be produced by **The Prayer Chain's** **Andy Prickett**.

Magdalen has started doing the shows they mentioned in the last issue. The first one was a sell-out on October 5th at **Perks** in **Huntington Beach, California**. Close friend **John Stamos**, of **ABC's** *Full House*, sat in with the band for a few tunes, lending his vocals and percussion skills.

The new **King's X** album is reportedly titled *Dog Man*.

Kyle Dietz, former drummer and founder of **Seraiah**, got married on Aug. 28 in **Puerto Rico**. While there, Kyle gave a radio interview to **WBMJ** of **San Juan**, in which he spoke of his years with **Seraiah**, plans for the future (possibly a new band?!), and his recent product endorse-

ments with **Darwin drums**, **Sabian cymbals**, and **Aquarian drumheads** -- for which he appears in an ad in the August and September issues of *Modern Drummer*. Those musicians interested in being a part of his new band can send materials to: 5353 Cane Ridge Rd #502, Antioch TN 37013.

Mercy has changed its name to **Submission Blue**. "The name change is due to a mainstream act called **Mercy** that had a hit over 24 years ago," says **Elisa Elder** of **Broken Records**, "and would prefer the we did not use it. Rather than challenge them, we decided it was in our best interest to simply change the group's name." **Submission Blue** is a name that means a lot to the band. **Erik Levy** says, "Submission Blue means submitting to God. Blue is the color of honesty; it's symbolic of God's honesty with us as believers."

Decision-D members **Edwin Ogenio** and **Gerard Vanderree** open up their church Bible studies by playing guitars and bass (respectively) for a band called **Clappies**, which plays some British-oriented, alternative stuff with some grunge influences. To contact **Decision-D**, write: PO Box 762, 3500 AT Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Lookout's demo plans with **Metal Church's** **Kurdt Vanderhoof** have fallen through, so the guys recorded with

Bloodgood's Paul Jackson instead. The band has a new bass player in **Jeff Perrin**. For info, write: Lookout, 427 Oakhurst Dr, Elma WA 98541.

The other **Broken Silence** has a new line-up: **Joy Soderstrom** on vocals and keys; **Vern Green** on bass; and **Keith Swanson** on drums. They have also just completed their new album tentatively titled *Shout It Out Loud*.

Crimson Thorn will have a new demo out sometime in the next month. They have a new drummer, **Kevin Sundberg**.

It's reported that **Brian White & Justice** are a new band on Broken going after that "Bon Jovi pop/rock sound." We'll see...

Crashdog was recently on the Jerry Springer show. A controversy revolved around the use of contemporary means to spread the Gospel. Tom Cameron, the producer for REZ, was also featured as a speaker to refute the claims that Christian rock music is "of the devil." The message conveyed was "very positive concerning contemporary Christian music, and the overall witness was a good one," reports Grrr.

Petra's new *Wake Up Call* tour opener in Ft. Myers, Fla., sold out in six short hours. A second show at the 2000-seat auditorium has sold out as well. The tour takes Petra, **Cindy Morgan** and **PFR** (formerly Pray for Rain) from Florida up the East Coast to Ohio across Indiana and up to Minnesota and out to L.A. Petra went back to its hometown of Ft. Wayne, Indiana on Oct. 1 to debut new material from *Wake Up Call* (the band's 20th album!). At the concert Petra was honored by the city of Ft. Wayne with a proclamation from Mayor Paul Helmke declaring Friday, Oct. 1, 1993 "Petra Day" in Ft. Wayne. He further encouraged Ft. Wayne citizens to recognize the positive influence Petra has on today's youth. "This band appeals to young adults and encourages them to think about important issues such as peer pressure and suicide." Collectively, the band has sold over six million copies of its albums.

Uthanda is disbanding. **Robert Beeson**, the group's vocalist and spokesman, states that the disbanding comes as a result of his recent move to Nashville, the difficulty in touring and, most predominantly, the time constraints in juggling the dual duties of his role in the band and as director of the band's label -- Essential Record Group. **Brad Pemleton**, the band's guitarist, will continue in music as part of the acoustic/pop band **Dream of Eden**. **Bob Wholer**, the bassist, will pursue other Southern California musical

opportunities, while drummer **Danny Woods** continues in a youth pastor internship.

Idle Cure's new album is due out on Salt Music, Inc. in March.

The Clergy has done a video for its first single, "Purity."

Soulaskin, one of the bands doing a cut on the Steve Taylor tribute album, is one word. Just thought you'd like to know. The name of this album is going to be *I Predict A Clone*.

Lightmare's latest is available from A.R.T. Distribution. **Avenger** is a new metal band from Jacksonville, Fla. "with a unique twist that puts them on the cutting edge."

MooTown Records has released another CD sampler including a few artists of interest: **Sometime Sunday** plays some intense grunge music on "Words;" **Antic** goes after a hardcore sound in "Paid in Full;" **Red Letter Paint** has an aggressive alternative sound with a crunch on "Babble-On Revisited;" and **Suns of Winter's** "Starlight" will remind the listener of The Doors. For info, write: Mission Music, POB 724973, Atlanta GA 31139.

Jeff Pearce, who released a tape reviewed in HM #33, now has an all-digital recording available of his contemplative instrumental music. For info, write: Windchime Music, PO Box 4814, Lafayette IN 47903.

Craig Erickson recently did an onstage jam with **Guardian's Tony Palacios** at a small club in Cedar Rapids. Craig's band was playing and **Jamie Rowe** and Tony stopped by to check 'em out. "We did some high energy free-form funk," says Craig. "Tony was tearing it up! He was playing some wild fusion outside stuff." Jamie did some vocalizing on a tune called "Key To The Highway." Craig has one song each on two new compilations on Shrapnel Records -- *Hats Off To Stevie Ray* and *Fit For A King* (a tribute to Albert King). Appearing on these albums with Craig are: Leslie West, Rick Derringer, Pat Travers, Steve Hunter, Frank Marino, Ricky Medlocke and Jon Butcher. Craig is writing for his second solo album.

Jeff Scheetz recently jammed onstage for an hour with the members of **Whitecross** after one of their shows at the New Earth Coffeehouse in Kansas City. Two weeks prior Jeff had the privilege of jamming with **Phil Keaggy** on the same stage. "What a wonderful source of inspiration for me!" says Jeff.

David Purdue of **Neon Cross** and his wife **Tracy** are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, **Michelle**

Purdue, on Nov. 18. She weighed in at 8 pounds, but the trendy news is that Tracy was wearing her **Precious Death** jersey during the birth.

April is the release month for the debut album by **20/20 Blind**.

The Gospel Music Association announces the opening of the Resource Center and Library. People wishing to research and study the Gospel music industry can do so in the archives, with thousands of recordings, publications and memorabilia. It is located at 1205 Division St, Nashville, TN 37203. If you would like to visit The Center or inquire as to how to make a contribution, call Don Butler at (615) 242-0303.

Legionnaire is going back into the studio soon to record another demo.

Corpse has signed to A.R.T., who will be distributing the band's new tape -- *You Must Die*. It was recorded at both Morrisound Studio in Tampa, Fla. and Chelsea Recording Studio in Nashville.

CTM (Christ Thru Metal) is a group that distributes Christian metal to non-Christian metalheads. They seek donations of cassettes and CD's (unopened and shrink-wrapped) from musically adept, overtly Christian metal bands to pass out (along with Bibles and other literature) to non-Christians that CTM meets or sends to the pen-pals listed in *Metal Edge*. For info, write: CTM, 20030 Lions Gate, Humble TX 77338.

Frank's Enemy is the band led by **Julio Rey**, ex-guitarist for **The Lead**. With his hand in many projects, Julio's newest newsletter describes Julio's commitment and focus now being with this new band. Julio has made another significant commitment recently. On March 6, 1993, he married **Kristina Danielle Flor**. To catch up with Julio, write: PO Box 523899, Miami FL 33152-3899.

Martyr is going to release its first full-length album, titled *Wickenstraut*, with 17 songs. It will be released by the German underground label Tisch-Christo. The songs are: "War Circus," "Flesh Scenes," "Get Drunk," "H. M. Wickenstraut," "Fall On Your Face," "In The Family," a new version of "Golgotha," "Abomination," "C If You Like This," "Plead The Blood," "Imminent Warfare," "True Love," "K.K.K.," "Bad P.R.," "False Prophets," "K.D.A.," and "No Goats." Some of these titles have been covered by **Betrayal**, but were originally Martyr titles. "People may know the old songs," explains Tisch-Christo's Christoph Stoll, "but the new ones are very different. They aren't in that dark thrash vein, but more

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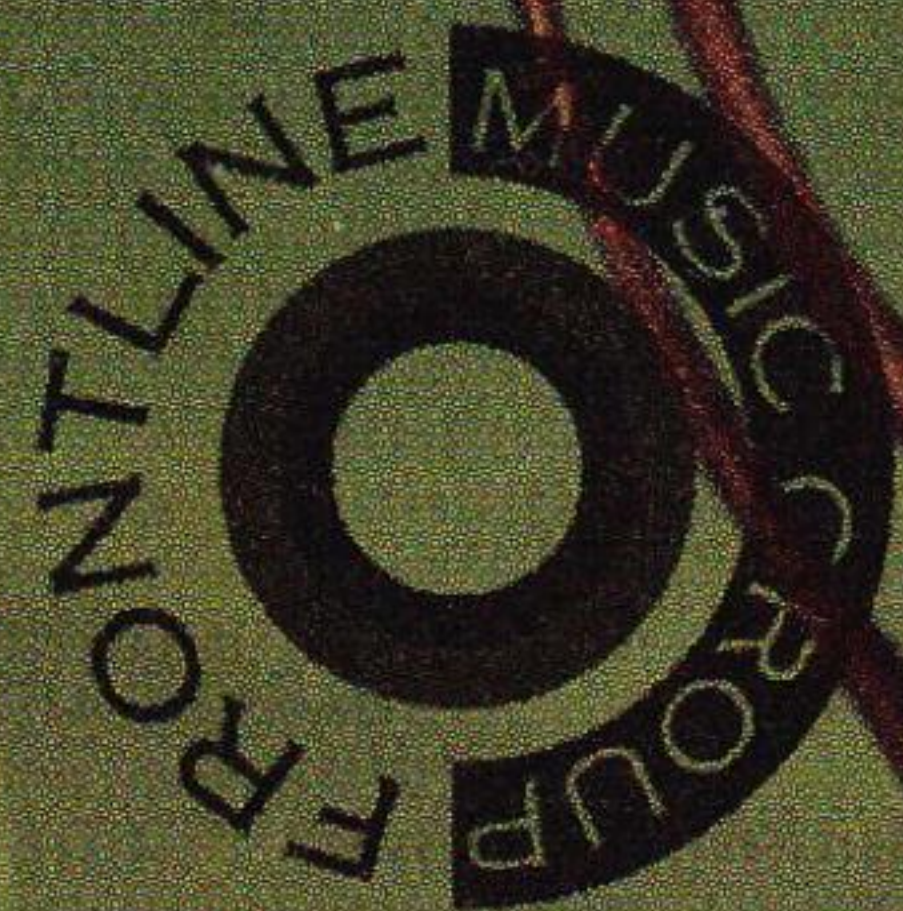


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Metal Radio Chart

Here are the TOP 20 METAL SINGLES (reprinted courtesy The CCM Update) as of November 22nd.

- 1 **"We Have A God"**
Fear Not
- 2 **"Testify"**
Tamplin
- 3 **"Who Am I"**
Deliverance
- 4 **"Justified"**
Die Happy
- 5 **"Dust Through A Fan"**
Bride
- 6 **"Amazing Grace"**
P.K. Mitchell
- 7 **"Shine"**
Precious Death
- 8 **"Violence"**
Killed By Cain
- 9 **"Renouncement"**
Betrayal
- 10 **"Future Mind"**
Believer
- 11 **"You're My Lord"**
Whitecross
- 12 **"The Scroll & The Lamb"**
Veni Domine
- 13 **"Seeds of Sorrow"**
Rose
- 14 **"Ruminating Virulence"**
Tourniquet
- 15 **"Voice of the Prodigal"**
Sardonyx
- 16 **"Enshrined"**
Brainchild
- 17 **"Self Inflict"**
Circle of Dust
- 18 **"Neplusultra"**
Mortal
- 19 **"Heart's Desire"**
REZ
- 20 **"Shoeshine Johnny"**
Guardian

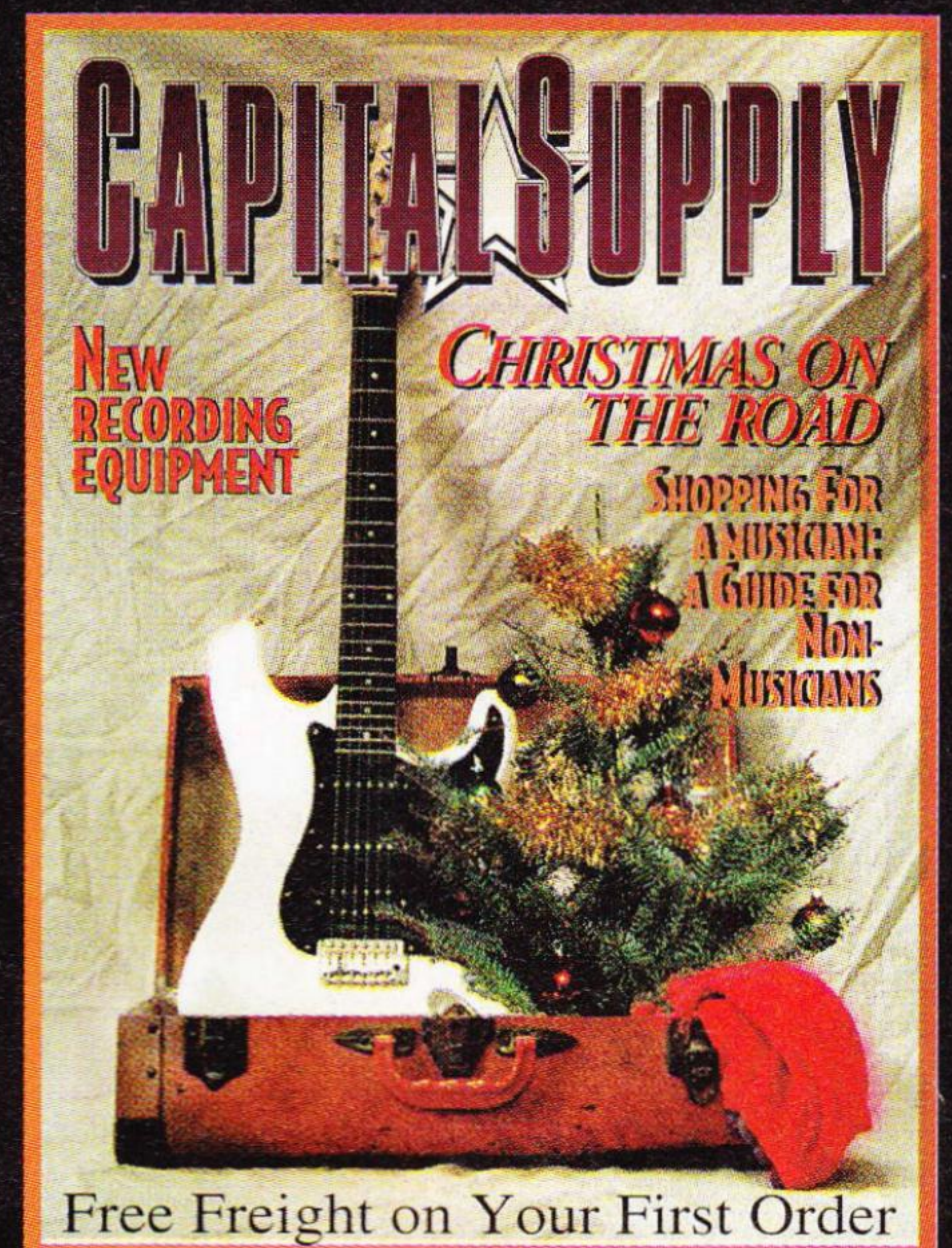
Rock/Metal Sales Chart

- 1 *Learn*
Deliverance
- 2 *Dimensions*
Believer
- 3 *Miracle Mile*
Guardian
- 4 *Saviour Machine*
Saviour Machine
- 5 *Highlands*
White Heart
- 6 *Post Momentary Affliction*
Mortification
- 7 *Into The Son*
Dakota Motor Co.
- 8 *Snakes In The Playground*
Bride
- 9 *Space In Your Face*
Galactic Cowboys
- 10 *The Passing*
Betrayal
- 11 *Shawl*
The Prayer Chain
- 12 *Fear Not*
Fear Not
- 13 *Intense Live Series, Vol. V*
Mortal
- 14 *Magenta Manta Love Tree*
Dig Hay Zoose
- 15 *Revolution Mind*
Magdalen
- 16 *Ferris Wheel*
Mad At The World
- 17 *Metamorphosis*
Various Artists
- 18 *Reach Of Love*
REZ
- 19 *Socially Unacceptable*
Jesus Freaks
- 20 *Heart Like Thunder*
Scott Wenzel

Reporting stores are: Sonshine Books & Gifts, Mission Viejo CA; Sonship, Newport Beach CA; Christian Discount, Covina CA; Triune Books & Bibles, Cincinnati OH; Loaves & Fishes, Vista CA; Newlife Books & Gifts, Lynchburg VA; Ministries For Christ, Austin TX; Theophilus, Bellaire TX; Better Books Christian Center, Tyler TX; and Shepherd Shoppe, San Antonio TX. **HM**

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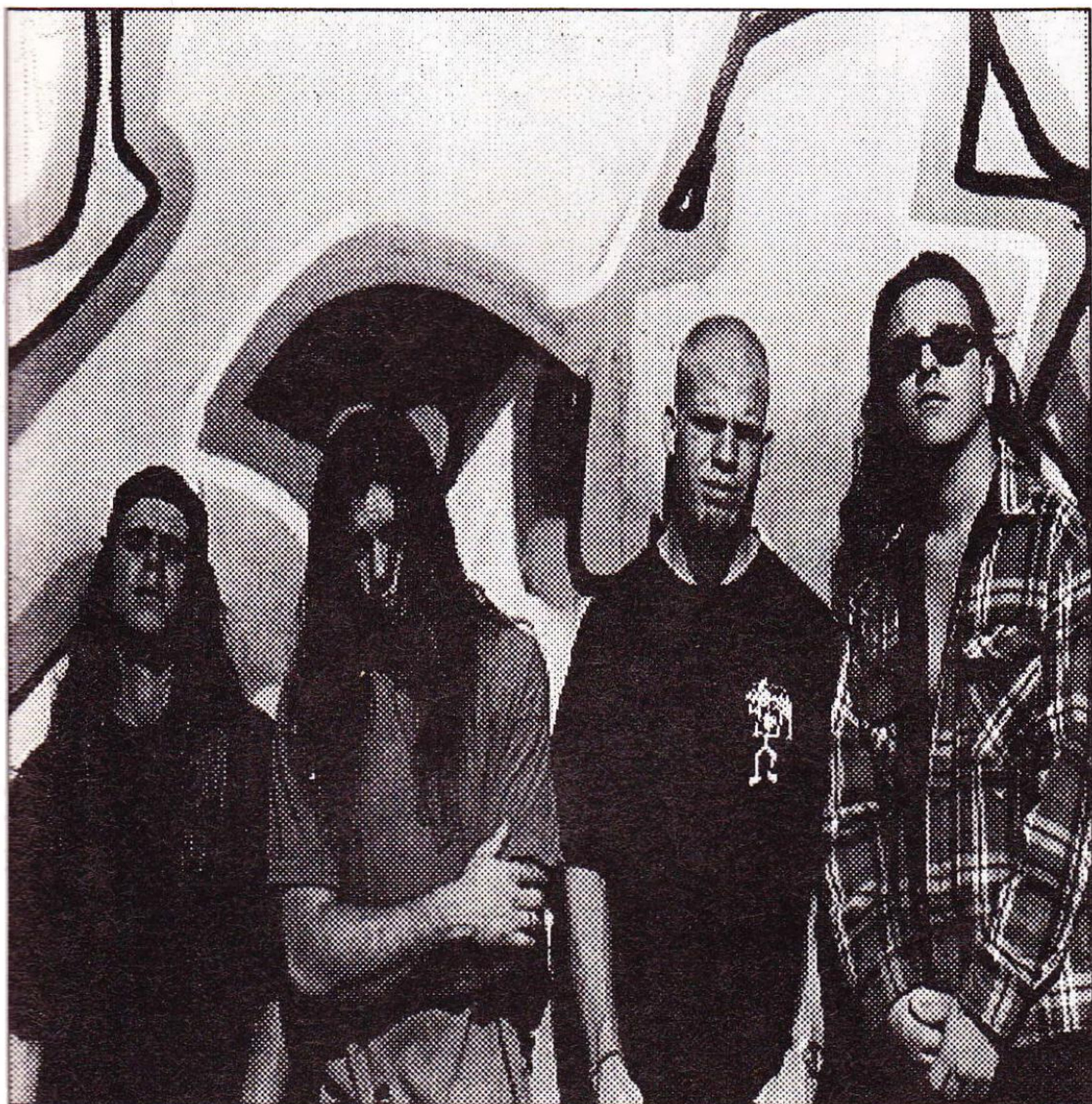
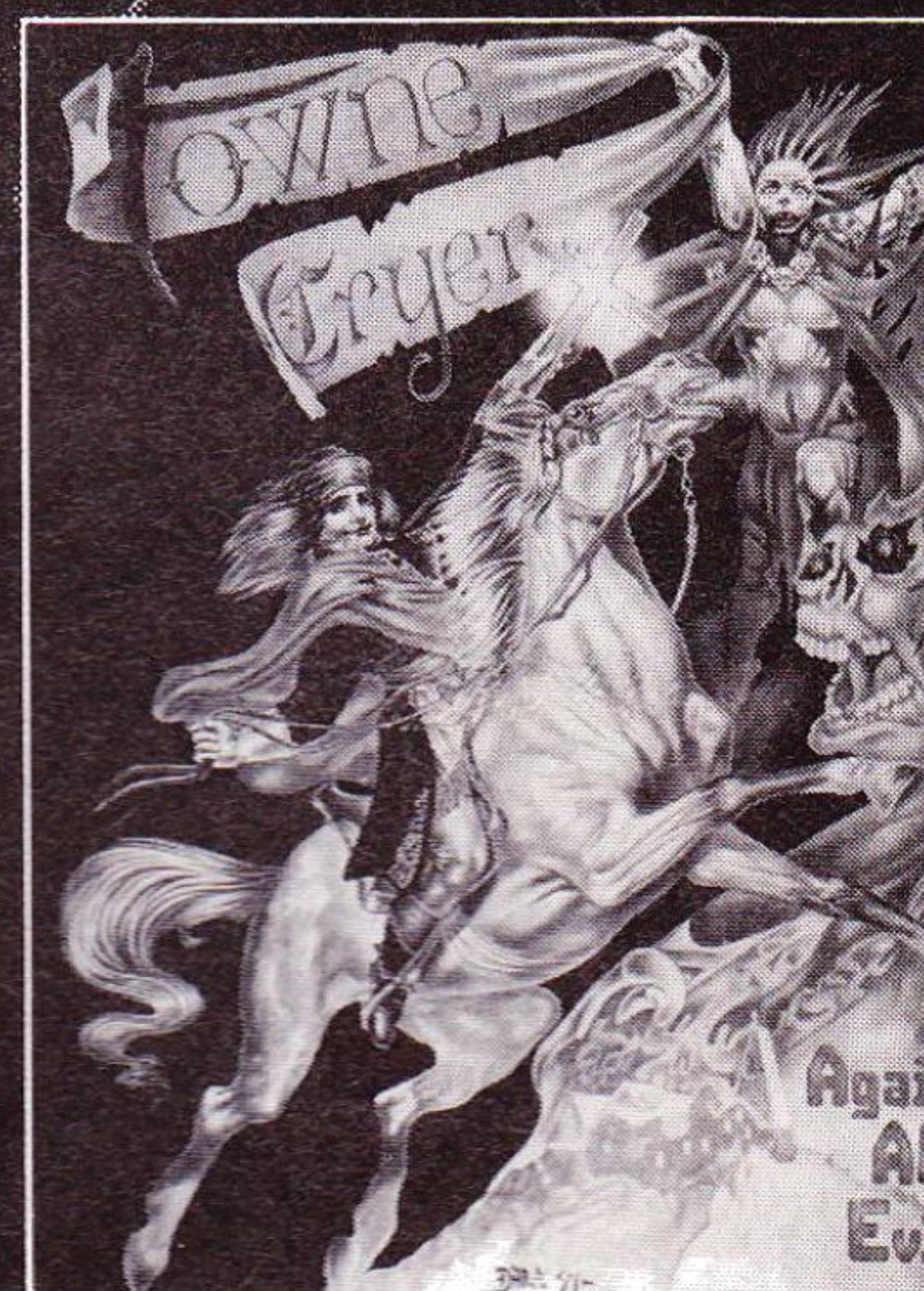
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Final Judgment is now releasing its debut album -- *Desolating Sacrilege*.

Remember **Scarlet Rayne**?

Well, since the release of its CD, the band has gathered members from **The Stand**, **Faces of Revolution**, and **Scizm**. Now the lineup features **Dan Johnston** on vocals/lead guitar, **Matty Johnston** on bass/vocals, **Kyle David** on guitar, and **Andrew Richter** on drums. For info, write: PO Box 71062, Milwaukee WI 53211.

Holy Countdown has a music video getting airplay on the "Metal TV" show broadcast on public access channels on cable systems all across the States. The show has a segment titled "Kingdom Metal Hour," which airs Christian rock videos.

The Obligator is ceasing publication with its February issue. Editor Mark Hodges is now putting his efforts into other areas, like the "Michigan Mosh Thrash Bash Slam Jam Hardcore Spring Thing '94" in Sparta, Mich., on May 6 to May 8. The event will feature one stage, where the best of signed and unsigned Christian "mosh" acts (ranging from aggressive alternative music to death metal) available. Confirmed acts as of press time are: **Crashdog**, **Ordained Fate**, **Six Feet Deep**, **Jesus Freaks**, **Lost**

Tribe, **Oblation**, **Pale Horse**, **Crimson Thorn** and **The Engineering Morons**. Tickets are only \$19.50 before March 1st, and \$22.50 afterwards. They are available from True Tunes, Etc. (1-800-669-TRUE)

Farewell to Juliet has a new address: c/o Artform Management Group, PO Box 1222, El Segundo, CA 90245-6222.

Ultimatum is working on its debut release -- a four-song EP titled *Fatal Delay*.

For those of you that attended the **Native Son** show at Cornerstone '93 and remember enjoying one of the last rap duos invited on stage to rhyme, now you can know who this duo was. They're called **Rodent Rose** and they've got a tape out. Interested parties can write: 1243 Park Ave, Chicago Hts, IL 60411.

Guitarist **Don Williams**, drummer **Ron Campbell** and bassist **Michael Miller** are still looking for a vocalist to complete their lineup. They are hard at work writing and rehearsing in their newly constructed 400 square foot preproduction studio. Despite the fact the band has no name or singer, they've already been blessed with top legal representation, endorsements and label interest. Interested parties should contact the band at (513) 866-1236 or write Ron at

340 E. Linden Ave, Miamisburg, OH 45342.

Strong Hand of Love is a tribute album being recorded in memory of the late **Mark Heard**. Recording Mark's songs, artists like **Bruce Cockburn**, **Sam Phillips** and **T-Bone Burnett**, **Michael Been & The Call**, and **Phil Keaggy** are taking part in this April '94 release.

A magazine out of Dallas is currently expanding its format and changing its name. One of its projects includes a video magazine. The person who helps the mag come up with its new name receives a free copy of the new issue and the video. Write: James Rankin, PO Box 999, Aledo TX 76008-0999.

Those wishing to help promote Christian music in Poland (photographers, bands, fan clubs, writers, etc.) can help a new magazine called Prayboy get started. For more info, write: Tomek Pompowski, Ul. Inowrockawska 27/45, 53-649 Wroclaw, Poland.

A new "White Metal" magazine is out in The Netherlands -- Metal Mission. For info, write: PO Box 1039, 2410 CA Bodegraven, The Netherlands.

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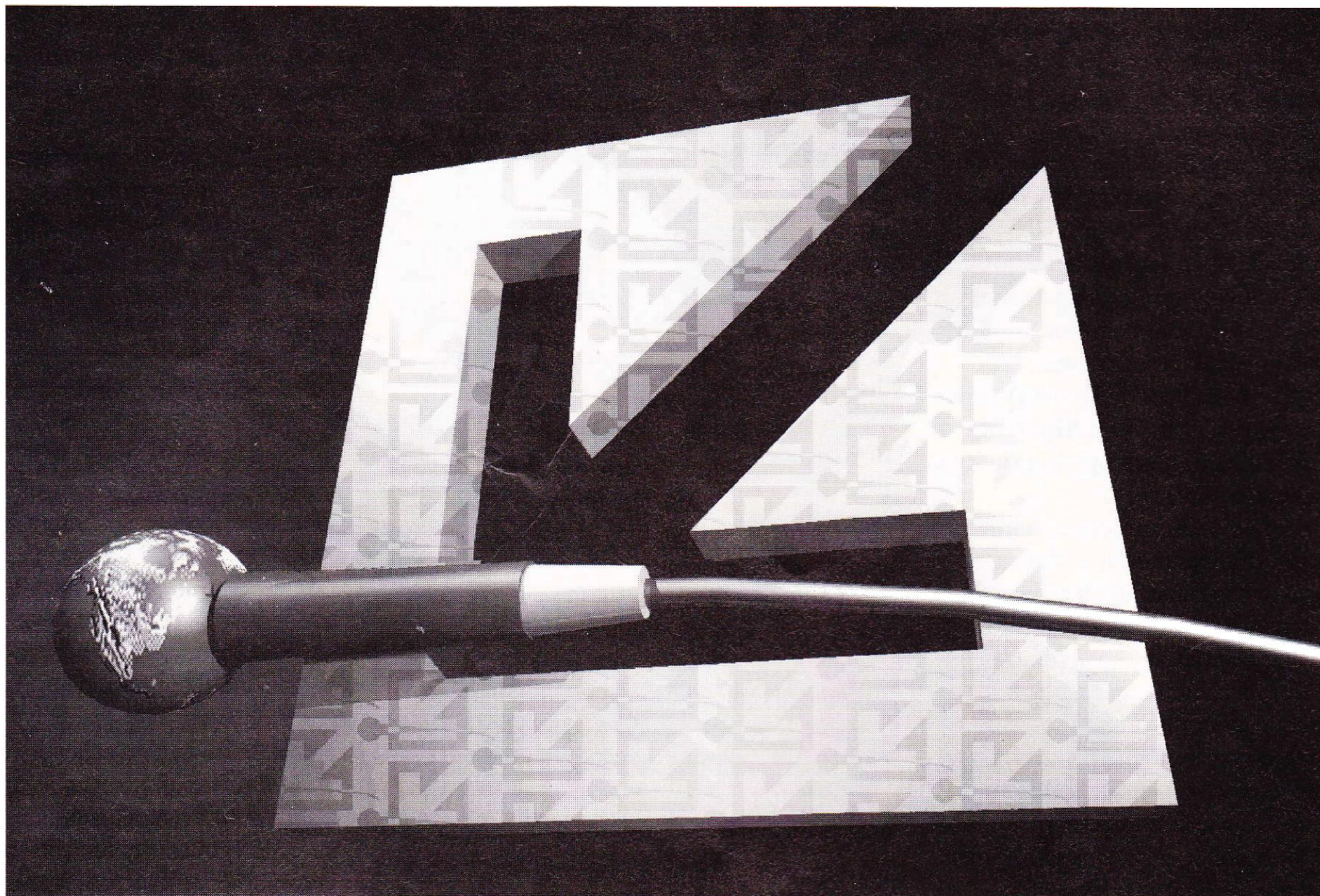
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Entertainment
WEEKLY

CONCERT REVIEWS

GALACTIC COWBOYS

There was a cool breeze blowing through the downtown buildings of Austin, Texas as the Galactic Cowboys gave a barn burner of a show on the Z-ROCK 'n' roll stage at the annual Pecan Street Festival on the night of Sept. 26, 1993.

The 200 plus crowd of wild horses became quite rowdy as the boys from Houston bucked into the tune "**Kill Floor**" with all the fury and aggression the song demanded. Without waiting for the rodeo clowns to clean up the mess, the Cowboys put a monstrous "**Space In Your Face**," coupled with a "**You Make Me Smile**" that had the little doggies grinning from ear to ear.

Cowboy Monty Colvin, with his Kool-Aid hair, bounced around the stage like he had ants in his pants, but he didn't miss a lick on his low-end four string lasso. He had the crowd's horns hooked all night. Monty's energized theatrics inspired the rest of the trail-trodden band to beef up this last rodeo stop on their month and a half tour with blazing campfire tunes such as "**No Problems**," "**Sea Of Tranquility**," "**I Do What I Do**" and the classic "**I'm Not Amused**," complete with ranchy harmonica solos by Ben Huggins.

Before the song "**If I Were A Killer**," Ben shared with the bucking broncos, "This song has gotten us into some trouble." The Cowboys probably would have gotten into more trouble if they didn't play this "hypothetical story" of a tune. The song was branded into the ears of the spinning spectators by the grooving riffs and chunky vibes released by six-string shooter Dane Sonnier.

"Mr. Alan Doss starts this one off" was lunged from the speakers right before "boom boom tah, ba boom boom tah, ba boom boom tah boom, boom tah" filled this city slicker's ears. The noise had to be "**About Mrs. Leslie**." England couldn't have inspired a more intense song. The bass frequencies had the streets shaking in their boots.

With all the excitement and energy that only these spaced-out rawhides could deliver, there were a few disappointments. One of which was the muddy mix the band played with. The angelic harmonies that set the Cowboys apart from the rest of the herd seemed to be buried under a dessert of sand trampled by a stampede of cattle. Also, the show was only about an hour in length which left no time for those melodic tunes "**Someone**

For Everyone," "**Why Can't You Believe In Me**" and "**Blind**."

Negatives aside, the thundering square dance was quite exhilarating, especially when the cow cadets offered to "**Pump Up The Space Suit**" for the stage-diving, space-flying, horse riding crowd. The band closed the dance with that mysterious "**Circles In The Fields**." During the middle of the song, a cow (actually, a man disguised as a cow) walking on its hind legs eased to the front of the stage where it almost lost its skin to the clawing masses.

If these cow-prodders ever land in your neck of the galaxy, check them out. It will be a close encounter of the most excellent kind.

--Andrew Crump

JERUSALEM

One of the first Christian hard-rock bands, Swedish Jerusalem, is back on stage, five years after their last performance as a band. As we all know, lead singer/guitarist Ulf Christiansson has released two solo projects, but not in the same musical style as the old Jerusalem stuff. The concert took place during Oslo Christian Center's Camp Meeting in one of the largest and nicest indoor concert halls in Norway -- Oslo Spektrum. About 4,000 people came to this free concert.

They opened with the song "**Dialogue**," from the *Volume 2* record, and continued with a song from their first record. The sound was really bad from the beginning, because of no time for sound-check, Ulf's voice almost drowned in guitars, but at least, the guys had not forgotten how to play rock 'n' roll!!!

Then came one of their new songs, talking about that it has been a long time since they played as Jerusalem, but now they were back. And so, one of the highlights of the show, the great song "**Warrior**." Only too bad that the technicians almost ruined the song with a total feedback, but after that the sound became much better. The band continued with some more new material, like one song about to be on fire for God, and also some songs from Ulf Christiansson's *The Lifestyle From Above*. In the middle of one of these songs all the lights were shut off, and the crucifixion scene from the movie "**Jesus of Nazareth**" was shown on a big screen.

But as you all know, one of the main reasons Jerusalem play shows like

this, is to preach the Word of God, and Ulf talked for about 10 minutes or so, about when he became a Christian back in 1975. About 10 or 15 people responded that they wanted to get saved, and after Ulf had prayed with them, they finished up with one more song.

But who on earth were willing to leave before Jerusalem had returned on stage to play "**Dancing On The Head Of The Serpent**?" I think not a single person. Could it be better when they followed up with the old rocker "**Noah**" and finishing with the ballad "**A Flower**." I don't think so!!

Thank God for Jerusalem, and thank God, they're back!!!

--Oddmund Solheim

SAVIOUR MACHINE/ DELIVERANCE

Saviour Machine live -- in one word . . . captivating!

Saviour Machine set the mood of the performance with their new keyboardist, E. Nathan Van Hala, playing Beethoven's "**Moonlight Sonata**." Guitarist Jeff Clayton, bassist Dean Forsyth, and their new drummer Jayson Heart mysteriously appeared on stage during the classical intro and led into "**Killer**."

Lead vocalist Eric Clayton appeared on stage wearing a Mardi Gras-type mask and seized the audience's attention with his haunting voice and presence.

The stage was adorned with chains and statues. A large version of their emblem -- the white mask -- doubled as a screen while slides showing a variety of thought-provoking images flashed upon it throughout the performance.

Saviour Machine made the best out of the club's light system. The guys used the lights to highlight the images and messages -- rather than themselves. And even though the majority of the audience stayed in their seats, they seemingly were captivated by the performance and showed their approval with vociferous applause at every opportunity.

The point is that Saviour Machine in a live situation is more than a concert -- it's an experience. And, as is intended by Saviour Machine, this experience encourages each person to question everything.

Deliverance hit the stage next



New drummer Steve Zaccone was impressive with only being with the band a month. Bassist Manny Morales and guitarist Jon Maddux (Jerry Cantrell look alike) were exceptional as well, as the band dished out other tunes like **"Renew,"** **"Sanctuary"** and **"Self-Monger."** But Deliverance with keyboards? -- you be the judge.

--Camille Bresie
& Andrew Crump

☞ Jamie & Tony
(Photo by Peter Petretta)

GUARDIAN

Guardian came roaring into Indianapolis on September 18th. They played a FREE show and did not hold back on their performance at all.

The guys started out by jammin' on the tunes **"Dr. Jones And The Kings Of Rhythm,"** **"Sister Wisdom,"** **"Fire And Love"** and the now hit **"Shoeshine Johnny."** Then David Bach and Karl Ney took a breather while Tony Palacios (now on acoustic guitar) and Jamie Rowe performed **"The Captain."** This was the highlight song of the night. It was beautifully done, and you could tell the influence Nashville has had on Tony's playing. Next song was **"Curi-**

osity Killed The Cat," and everybody went wild. Heads were banging all over the place. The guys kept the energy going with **"Let It Roll,"** **"The Rain"** and the encore presentation of **"Takin' On The World."**

The only problem during the night was when David Bach broke a bass string. The guys played hard and were drenched in sweat. I would like to thank Guardian for a memorable night. P.S. SUPPORT CHRISTIAN METAL.

--Brian Rodgers

with enough low end to crush your skull. The band kicked the set off with the thunderous **"Who Am I"** and the brain vibrating tune **"Learn"** from the new album *Learn*. The rhythms were tight, and Jimmy Brown's voice (even though he was under the weather) was filled with intensity on these two numbers. The crowd didn't start slamming and swirling out of control until **"Stay Of Execution"** rattled the streets of San Antonio.

It's almost a sin to bag Deliverance. It is one of the thickest, crunchiest

and heaviest bands around, but with the addition of Charlie Brown (Jimmy's brother) on keyboards, many of the songs lost their extremely heavy vibes that were captured on the albums. For example, imagine **"1990"** with keys. It wasn't like a Michael W. Smith concert, but it just didn't seem like a Deliverance show.

Also, **"No Time"** and **"Weapons Of Our Warfare"** were the only old tunes played on this night. What happened to the Deliverance classic **"The Call,"** or even the ground breaking song **"Attack?"**

ALBUM REVIEWS

HOT PINK TURTLE

ticklewigglegigglepickle

R.E.X. Music

From flowing funk to groovy grooves to chunky chugs back to funk, to grooves, to chugs, funk, grooves, chugs, funk, grooves, chugs, funk, grooves, chugs, time changes, melody changes, heavy changes, soft changes, changes, changes, changes, more changes and more changes -- it's non stop excitement that'll make your ears spin!

ticklewigglegigglepickle is a maze of swirling sounds that seem to change with each whirl of the disc. While there are resemblances to Dig Hay Zoose's Zeppelin/Chili Pepper riffs, Hot Pink Turtle seems to go to the extreme on both sides of today's music vibe with some soft pop rhythms as well as some Galactic Cowboy type grit and grunge flushed within their tunes. Over this cyclone of noise there are some cool and refreshing vocal melodies and harmonies. With all these sounds whirled into one, a pleasing chaos is created with arrangements that flow smoothly with no awkwardness. Hot Pink Turtle has created a world where nothing is predictable, but everything unexpected soothes the soul.

"**Hideous**" starts the disc off with thick and heavy grooves glazed with clean vocals. "**Myisci**" begins with soft, flowing rhythms that hint of a blowing storm. And, as hoped for, the storm blows with tons of aggression. "**A Lil' Groove**" is a cool little groove that backs its way into a nifty sort of psychedelic beach vibe. "**A Boat and His Boy**" -- whoa -- bounces all around with some sporadic Galactic Cowboys' riffs that grind.

"**Guntistha Garden**" goes from one extreme to the other with its soft mood swings to its one ton (again, sporadic) Cowboys' grind. It returns once again to its soft mood swings, then to funk, to grooves, to chugs, from soft melody changes to heavy changes, changes and more changes. It sounds like a medley of the history of rock and roll. There is one part in the song that slows to a peaceful quite, and then without warning, a hurricane of sound blasts through -- enough to cause pant wettage.

Lyricaly, the album is spiritually bold and continues with the creativity displayed through the music. The band didn't short change the listners by writing shallow, tooth fairy lyrics to accompany their brainy and zany rhythms. The words

encourage as well as challenge.

This is a storm of sound to leave the windows open for. Let the wind blow through the soul. --Andrew Crump

X-PROPAGATION CONFLICT

Intense

X-Propagation is the new project/ band of Brent Stackhouse, formerly of Deitiphobia, and Byron Payne, who provides sampling. This little gem of cyber/industrial has been waiting to be released on the public for quite a while. Well worth the wait, *Conflict* is true cybercore -- maybe better described as heavy electronic music. No real guitars here boys and girls. It's just synthesized, distorted-guitar programming mixed with crazy keyboard sounds and heavy, grOOOvy beats.

This is some of the heaviest strictly synth-oriented industrial I've ever heard. It kind of resembles Ministry's *Flashback* type stuff. Some of the bass sounds remind me of Cyberaktif. A lot heavier than Deitiphobia -- I believe this is where Brent really wants to be.

The album starts out with a noisy little intro and a sample talking of the powers of Satan on the home and the family. Then, "**Heads Up**" crashes in. A very heavy and intense song indeed. It is also very fast paced. I really like the use of the synthesized distorted-guitar. It gives the music a more original sound than if they would have used a real guitar. "**Conflict**," the title song, has a nice steady beat that breaks into a nice heavy frenzy when the above mentioned guitar sound kicks in. Brent's vocal effects are done well on this album. He uses a very original effect at one point on "**Forgive Us**." Listen for it folks. "**Cybernation**" ends the album with a bang -- nice, speedy beats with hardcore programming. These are just some of the highlights of the 10 songs on this great album.

The only complaint I have at all is the sampling. Some of it sounds made in the studio. A few sound too clean and clear. A couple of them are preaching samples and overtly Christian, which I feel might turn off the non-Christian listeners. Other than this, I love it.

I would suggest this to anyone in the world who enjoys industrial. It's good stuff. Definite quality music and production. Hey, it comes from Brent. Buy it!

--Eric Shirey

GLOBAL WAVE SYSTEM LIFE EQUALS DEATH

Intense

Oh boy! Oh boy! Oh boy! More quality Christian industrial. This trio of young lads from Rock Island, Illinois trekked all the way to Houston, Texas to record one of the best industrial albums around. They succeeded with the help of Brent Stackhouse and Byron Payne at the helm.

At first, very similar to secular sound-sculptors Skinny Puppy, they come across as very dark. "**Soul Like Ice**" opens the album with dark, orchestral music and heavily distorted vocals. As "**It Was Born There**" comes on, the pace picks up with a steady beat and great programming. My favorite samples are in this fine tune. A man says in a condemning voice, "You shall be consumed by fire" repeated a few times. Love it! Love it!

As you move on through this wonderful soundscape, the songs become more original, and they start to get a sound of their own. There is another song that sounds very similar to cyber-dance band Frontline Assembly, but don't let this get you down. Overall, Global Wave System has a totally original sound. This is achieved through the use of totally unconventional keyboard sounds and music. The programming is really excellent.

I really have nothing bad to say about this album. Although influences by Skinny Puppy and Frontline Assembly can be heard, the originality of the rest of the music outweighs this factor. I love them. Have their mothers kiss them for me.

Everyone who enjoys industrial music a little on the abstract side needs to grab a hold of this. It's 12 songs of intense listening enjoyment.

--ES

WHITECROSS TO THE LIMIT

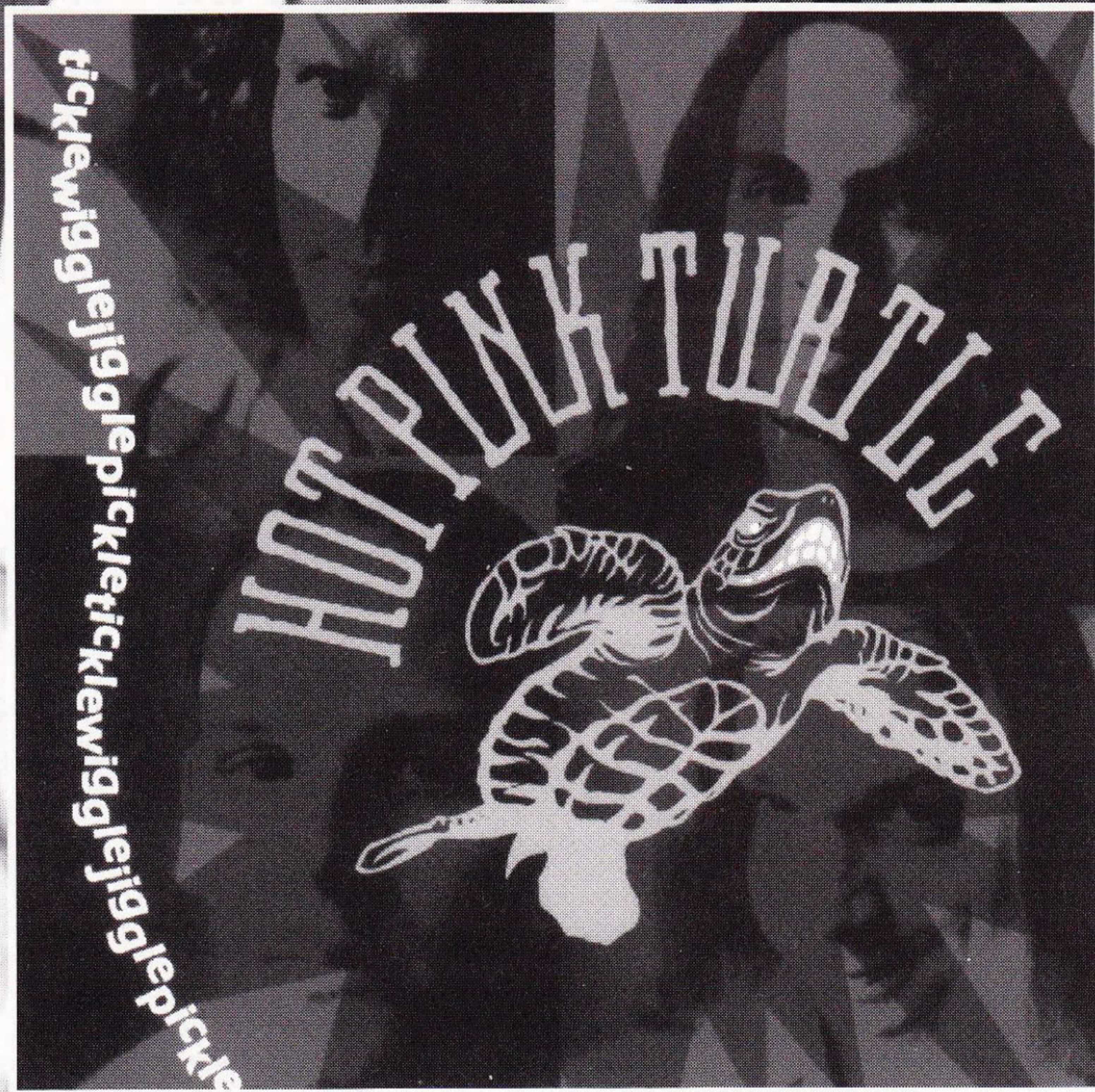
Star Song

Remember those good ole days, when you could play a Whitecross album for one of your friends and you were just as tickled as could be -- because you knew you were blowin' the guy's eye sockets out of his skull? Well, those days can be revisited with one tape here -- a Whitecross collection called *To The Limit*.

Most of the material here majors on the last two Whitecross albums -- *In The*

ticklewigglegigglepickleticklewigglegigglepickle

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MUSIC

Kingdom and *High Gear*, but some of the hottest material, such as “**Because of Jesus**” and “**Enough is Enough**,” show up as expected. The two real highlights here are “**It’s My Life**” and “**You’re My Lord**” -- the two brand new rockin’ Whitecross cuts. The band proves a point here: They showed that we can’t pin them down with the “mellowed out” tag just yet. The two new songs are no-holds-barred all-out rockers -- the Whitecross we’ve all come to know and love. “**It’s My Life**” starts off with some attitude/soulful blues guitar pickin’ before it goes into the real high gear -- the same over-drive gear the band wore out on the *Hammer And Nail* album. “**You’re My Lord**” is a heavy song with a great back beat and plenty of Rex Carroll’s screamin’ fills. It’s a way cool song that would’ve made any Whitecross album better.

One of the problems with this collection is it seemed that adequate research wasn’t put into it. They didn’t include “**Love on the Line**,” which was an EP Whitecross released in between their first and second album and hasn’t been made available on compact disc yet -- and ought to be. The only song off the first album is “**Enough is Enough**.” Surely they could’ve found another tune off that smokin’ first album, like “**No Way I’m Goin’ Down**” or “**He Is The Rock**” -- a concert staple. There’s also a couple of tunes off the *Hammer And Nail* album that should’ve been on here. How ‘bout “**Take it to the Limit**” -- especially since it’s the quasi-title track. Howza ‘bout “**Down**” -- the Whitesnake-ish hit from *Triumphant Return*. Plus, there’s no guitar solo on this. This is the first Whitecross release with no guitar solo! Otherwise, it’s a good release.

Now, you definitely have to take my criticisms with a grain of salt, since I’ve chosen songs for compilations before, but I’m still a fan who knows a good tune when I hear it. The first “greatest hits” package released for Whitecross -- *At Their Best* -- probably had a better selection. We could’ve heard a lot more on this release. In the age of compact disc -- Why not 13 to 15 songs?

--Doug Van Pelt

WISH FOR EDEN PET THE FISH

Tooth & Nail

For good or bad, heavy metal has changed. Bands like Soundgarden, Nirvana and Pearl Jam have changed the rules. It’s time to put the spiked collar back on the dog and take that old flannel shirt used to line your dog’s bed and wrap it around your waist. Heavy distorted bass

guitars have taken over the bottom end, and groovin’ riffs accompanied by wah-wah pedals have returned, bringing feeling over technique back to rock and roll.

Okay, what does all this have to do with Wish For Eden? Everything! These grungemeisters are lying face down in the dirt Alice In Chains have kicked up. A quick education of this movement can be had by one listen to “**U Could**.” The wailing feedback, the rak-a-tak-a-tak of the snare drum and “I’m mad at you” vocals are all there.

Tunes like “**Green**” are immediately likable due to excellent riffs delivered with power and a little texture a la feedback guitar. “**Me**” is a cool tune with several stops and “bang you over the head” riffs -- which repeats enough to get your body swaying (You see, this kind of music inspires moshing, dancing and stage diving, not the typical headbang of the past). “**Blood**” is another killer tune with ferocious power and nasty distortion. The breakdown in “**Don’t Know**” is awesome. The groove is carried along, but simmered on low a bit until it has to explode again.

On a (very) casual listen, one may think that these ten tunes all sound the same; but a close listen reveals several mood swings, like the difference between “**Questions**” and “**Ocean**” shows; and several different riffs. The musical revolution has arrived and Wish For Eden sounds real, real good.

--DV

CHASE IN PURSUIT

Salt Music

Wow! Here’s a band that makes a pretty noteworthy debut. I love it when a band can pull this off out of the blue. First cut here, “**Keeping My Mind**,” brings back memories of early Chosen Stranger (remember their cut on *Underground Metal?*). Good melodic sensibilities with a hard rock FM radio approach. Cut two, “**Spectrum of Emotion**,” finds the band in a Def Leppard-ish commercial groove with good BGV’s and punch. Cut three, “**I Am Living You**,” is the first taste of this Idle Cure ballad approach. This one may get the girls with lighters at the show to light up the sky, because we’re talking c-l-e-a-n. The BGV’s could please any A.C. (Adult Contemporary) station programmer.

Now, diversity is fine in my book; but the crucial question is: Who wins the battle of most airplay -- the ballads or the rockers?

Cut four, “**Love is the Reason**,” tilts the balance back in the Def Leppard heavy ballad zone. Besides the obvious

Def Lep sound, this tune could enjoy a long life on radio.

Lyricaly, this album touches on a lot of real-life issues like keeping a marriage and family together. “So how can we live together/ Knowing all that we’ve been through?/ Love should last forever, and time will always heal our wounds.”

When I noticed who produced this album, I was no longer surprised that I was hearing a quality production. Bill Baumgart, who produced the early Idle Cure records, does a great job here. The album finishes up with: rockin’ tunes - 8; wimpy ballads - 2. I’d call that a success. Pop metal lives on with Chase. Fans of Siloam and Def Leppard should have no qualms with this disc.

--DV

XT TAXFREE

Viva Music

Over the past couple of years Sweden has gone through a renaissance in terms of Christian rock music with Jerusalem reforming (new album *March '94*), Cornerstone, Veni Domine working on its second album, Charizma, Jet Circus, XT and all the underground bands emerging.

Yes, Bjorn Stigsson (former Leviticus) is back with the second album from his new band, XT. XT (meaning Christ) features Bjorn on guitars, Sonny Larsson on vocals, Niklas Johnsson on keyboards, Mick Nordstrom on drums and P-O Larsson on bass. The album is well arranged and produced and definitely heavier than the bands debut.

Taxfree kicks off with “**The One**,” a catchy rocker showing the listener from the very start that these dudes are very good songwriters. “**Face To Face**,” probably one of the best tracks with a great hook and a melody you’ll remember from the first listen. The next tune is “**My First Morning**,” a nice acoustic ballad with some cool keyboard-effects and Sonny singing with great feel. It’s one of those songs that send chills down your spine both musically and lyrically: “When I close my eyes, I can see images of you every time. You have opened my spiritual eyes.” It’s one of my wife’s favorite songs on the album.

“**Got Love**” is a rocker with a great live feel -- bound to stick to your brain like feathers on a turkey. It’s about being alone and looking for love and finding the only true love -- God. “**The Silent Cry**,” a haunting ballad about child abuse: “When daddy does something



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HARDER THAN HOTCAKES

that's wrong, mother just turns away her head."

"**Carry On**" starts with some heavy crunchin' guitar riffs that are gonna hit you straight between the eyes like a freight train, with Sonny singing in a somewhat lower register. The heaviest track on the album, "**The False Prophet**," starts quietly with some nice keyboard work and with an excellent acoustic guitar solo, crunchy rhythms and a strong chorus. The song is basically about Satan being a bad guy and the father of lies (which I guess most of you already know).

"**Sign Of The Time**" is another crunchy rocker igniting on all cylinders and letting the guitar wail. "**Walk In The Shadows**" begins with acoustic guitars that remind me of Queensryche. (Queensryche did a song with the same name. What is this? Rip off of the century? Just kidding!) The song has some heavy riffs, making it quite intense with less polished background vocals, which I personally like better. "**One Way To Heaven**" finishes off the album, a catchy keyboard-driven rocker: "I can see You standing, waiting by the golden gate/I am on my way to You on wings of life to the land of freedom."

Overall, I think it's a good album with strong melodies and great hooks. It shows that Bjorn and Sonny are excellent songwriters. Occasionally, though, I think the backing vocals and keyboards tend to make it sound a little too well polished. Sometimes less is more. *Taxfree* is definitely heavier than the band's debut, and it's a step in the right direction. And you know what, it's still a great album!

--Staffan Gustafsson

CORNERSTONE

Viva

The Swedish Christian rock music scene has suffered from serious malnutrition for the last few years. But now, with bands like Cornerstone releasing its debut album and XT releasing its second, the diet is definitely changing.

Cornerstone consists of four guys from the south of Sweden: Kent Franklin - vocals, guitar, slide and harmonica; Mattias Holm - lead guitar; Samuel Gustafsson - bass and Frederic Josefsson - drums and percussion. They play heavy, down-to-earth blues.

When you hear the first tune, "**Little Prayer**" (which was also on the tape that Jeff Lott reviewed in the #40 issue of HM), you just want to get on your Harley and hit the road. And then you give more throttle when "**Doing My Best**" takes the tempo up.

The rest of the album really shows that these guys really can make positive things out of old R&B and R&R traditions. "**Resurrection Blues**" and "**Whiskey And Women**" are two acoustic, very bluesy songs. My personal favorites are "**Train To Jordan**" and "**When I Get To Heaven**," a couple of up-tempo songs about the day when we reach the goal of our lives. "**Hello Sunshine**" is the weakest song on the album, but it gains on you after listening to it a couple of times. "**Greed**" is a funky piece that really swings and tells us not to give into greed. "**The Deeper Love Goes**" is about not wanting the girl you are in love with playing around with your feelings. "**Rock Of Love**" is a heavy tune with lots of tempo, and in "**Give Me Fire**" they sing about wanting more of the fire from above.

As a whole, this album is a powerful record that really shows where rock 'n' roll has its roots, and does it in a way that is fresh and nice to your ears. Musically they're a tight outfit, but they need to develop their lyrics a bit more. They are not afraid of talking about what they believe in, but a few more verses wouldn't hurt. Kent Franklin has all the roughness in his voice that is needed for this kind of music, although, he sometimes sounds a bit insecure.

If you like rock and especially the kind that is founded in blues, this is definitely a record for you. I am already looking forward to their next record.

--Patrick Edholm

ANATHHEMA

A.R.T. Distribution

Death metal on vinyl -- if you thrash it skips!

The music is slow and thick with haunting vocals and 12 ton rhythms.

"**They Die**" is a somewhat monotonous tune with dark, gloomy lyrics. The end of the song kicks into a cool melodic instrumental. "**Crestfallen**" continues the darkness with a sense of hope in reaching out to the Lord. The beginning of the song has a Metallica "One" feel to it.

Overall, the two songs lack the groove that would keep this reviewer's attention. Anathema has the ability to put the "death" into death metal, but maybe a little "groove" with the "death" would make this metal more appealing.

--AC

CRAWLSPACE

Shelter

A.R.T. Distribution

Here's an excellent tape with

tons of energy and four good songs that you'll want to hear again and again. With the demise of the kings of intensity -- The Crucified -- bands like Crawlspace and Focused are proving to be good "substitutes." (?)

The band knows the power of good ole tribal, pounding drumming and a passionate loud spoken vocal delivery. Of course, the guitars have a nice crunch. "**Grip**," the best example here, which poses the question "Does 30 minutes of being high a fair trade for life in the grave?" It is also the best song on the album.

The only down part of the Crawlspace sound is the vocals drone instead of attacking. Again, "**Grip**" is the exception here, especially because Erik the vocalist takes his time to deliver his lines with conviction by speak-shouting. This weakness could be cured with a good producer pulling the right attitude and sound from the singer. Overall, this EP is hot. The production holds it back from inhilating the listener, but the music is powerful enough to knock you down. 'Nuff said.

--DV

PALE HORSE

Mournful

A.R.T. Distribution

Pale Horse fits everything that is hot about death metal -- Black Sabbath guitar riffs, plodding bass, complex drumming, and horrifying vocals. In other words, fantastic. These four young men from New Jersey have created a fabulous work of art. "**Iniquity**" kicks off the tape, which talks of Matthew 13:3-9, the parable of the sower. Lots of time changes and intense guitar work. There are five more masterpieces on this tape, and with the exception of "**The Treasure**," which is an acoustic song about Matthew 6:21, all are incredibly heavy.

The production, though not album quality, is definately above average. Pale Horse is a band that makes Christian metal very reputable, and something that a believer would enjoy turning his unsaved friends on to.

--JL

NEW SOCIETY

It's everywhere! Industrial music is coming out of the woodworks with its angry aggression and thick dance grooves. New Society won't disappoint the listener who enjoys such bands as Nine Inch Nails, Mortal and Under Midnight. The demo has a distinct attitude that pushes the message of truth right in your face.



WISH FOR EDEN
PET THE FISH

Some highlights on the demo are the songs “**Whiplash**” (which has Roger Martinez’s screams from the Vengeance Rising song “Beheaded” smashed into the mix) and “**No Party In Hell**” (which has sort of a U2 meets Ministry vibe to it). Another cool track is “**Staring at the Sea**” which sports a slow alternative groove coupled with smooth vocals.

The band seems to have a bone to pick with evangelists who use the name of the Lord to fill their pockets. The disgust with these kinds of false prophets is evident throughout the entire demo.

There are 17 tunes on this demo - a little something for everyone. This is a positive outing for a band that looks to be sticking around for a bit. To order, send \$2 (plus \$1 shipping) to Roman Recordings, 4308 East Dr., Wonder Lake, IL 60097.

--AC

BROKEN SILENCE

It has become evident what David Zaffiro’s ears enjoy hearing when he is at work in the studio with a band. Broken Silence’s *Discerning The Times* is no exception. From beginning to end, the melodic strength of Holy Soldier is experienced.

“**Streets of the Empty Soul**” is a power driven song that has a catchy, ripping guitar lick that rears its nasty head throughout this passionate song. The guitar solo has that signature Zaffiro feel to it. “**Higher**” continues with the heaviness of “Streets of the Empty Soul,” but it has more of a commercial vibe. The chorus adds some spiritual smoothness that tugs at the soul. “**Ready to Go**” is a slow, bluesy number with some cool guitar tones during the verses. “**Naked**” is a dark tune that has an aggression infested groove with plenty of attitude. The song swings in and out of melodic rhythms.

The highlight of the demo is the last cut, “**Broken Crowns**.” It takes the attitude heard in “Naked” and adds some leather and spikes. Out of all the songs on the demo, this one resembles Holy Soldier the least. With its neck breaking rhythms and wailing vocals, “Broken Crowns” puts the finishing touches on this soul-stirring demo.

Broken Silence is not a Holy Soldier wanna be. There are some original ideas heard on the tape. But if you are a big Holy Soldier fan, this demo will satisfy.

To order, send \$7 to PO Box 2122, Chino CA 91708-2122.

--AC

TERA

David Zaffiro has once again let

his creative production juices drench another new band. Tera is wringing wet. The two songs on the demo are extremely heavy and create an intense, mysterious mood for the listener. “**Seventh and Sanctuary**” has a Holy Soldier/Sacred Warrior vibe to it. The chorus is like floating on a lake of glass with a soft breeze whirling through your head. “**Ides of the Last Reign**” picks up the pace with a slight feel of Queensryche. It has some cool rhythm changes, which help build upon the aggressive attitude displayed throughout the song.

The lyrics that are branded in these tunes are beyond a shallow mentioning. One could spend hours swimming in the thoughts and spiritual guidance that seem to engulf the listener as he dives into the perfectly mastered songs.

Some may be thinking that the projects Zaffiro has soaked his hands in all sound the same. Though there are obvious similarities with the different bands he has produced (Holy Soldier, Zion, Broken Silence), there are distinct ear pleasing differences which will attract listeners to each of his creations.

As already stated, Tera is an intense band who needs to be given an intense chance to put out an intense, Olympic pool size album. To order, send \$5 (plus \$1.50 postage) to: Tera, Box 2007, Bridgeview, IL 60455.

--AC

SCULPTURE

Here is some well structured metal from a band from the Netherlands. Lots of bands have obviously played an influence on Sculpture. Some that come to mind are Deliverance, Mortification, and even Black Sabbath and Mercyful Fate.

There are touches of thrash, but thankfully not overdone. The vocals show off Arjan Nihot’s best Steve Rowe imitation. But he also knows when to stop, making the English lyrics understandable for the most part.

The production is way above average, making some of the sound effects and even the classical ending of “**Dawn of Eternity**” sound really good.

Sculpture has put out a really hot four-song tape. The music has a really dark reel to it, which kept me wanting to listen and made me happy that I did.

For ordering info, write to p/a W.A. Nihot, P.O. Box 1039, 2410 CA Bodegraven, The Netherlands.

--JL

SANCTIFY

Crunch! Crunch! This band from Finland put a huge smile on my face

from the moment I hit the play button. While the production is a little heavy on the bass side . . . quite honestly, with music this brutal, it doesn’t matter. They list two influences, Believer and Tourniquet, which means a lot of complexity. Listen to the guitars in “**Reality**” and “**Pride Mind**.” Guitarists Jarno Saren and Jani Makwen work well together. Drummer Miikka Tikka pounds his kit with such fury I’m amazed that it stays together.

The same quality behind the music is behind the lyrics as well. “**The Amnesty**” deals with loneliness. “**The Dark Side Holds Not**” talks of the temptations of Satan.

This is a first class band that is leaps and bounds better than most of the metal underground. Get this tape. Believe me, you won’t be disappointed. To order, send \$7 to: Jarno Saren, Kuusaan Keskuslaitos, Asuntola 6 AS 27, 45740 Kuusankoski, Finland.

--JL

PROPHETA

Well Doug, you did it again! I had this same problem with a band I reviewed in issue #42 with a band called Vox Dei. A great band, but with all Spanish lyrics. Same thing with Propheta. So I’ll review it the same way, on the quality of the music.

The music! I tell ya, I keep picturing Spanish music as the stereotypical acoustic guitar, violins, trumpets and men wearing sombreros. The times they are a changin’! The music is superior to a lot of American bands. The first cut, “**Preludio En La Mayor**,” is a metal instrumental. “**Alegrese**” has a great hook that could have potential on radio.

The production, while not as good as one would hear on an American release like Bride or Guardian, is still quite good.

Now guys, next time release material with English lyrics so someone who can’t understand Spanish, like myself, can get the same enjoyment as our Spanish brothers and sisters!

For ordering info, write to: Ministerios Propheta, 48 calle 0-97, zona 11, Guatemala, C.A.

--JL

Angelo de Simone CHRISTIAN ROCK: Friend or Foe?

Still having trouble explaining to someone that Christian Heavy Metal is not a tool used by Satan to build a machine of destruction? If so, Angelo de Simone has

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done an impressive job of showing the positive fruit of Christian Rock.

Simone, a musician himself, bases his beliefs almost solely on scripture. After reading the book, all 254 pages of it, you may feel like you have just read the entire Bible. Whoa! It's hard to refute scripture if and when it is used in its context.

A lot of preparation has gone into the contents of this book. It seems that Simone has explored almost every reason why someone might think Christian Rock is brewed in the pits of Hell. He didn't back down from any of the views he encountered. From your basic, almost traditional view that the beat is Satanic to the almost absurd view that Christian Rock removes the word of God from a person's heart, Simone challenges it all with the sword of the Lord.

The book begins with an interesting chronological look at the history of music, but then moves swiftly into the meat of the controversy. Simone is blunt when he gives his side of the argument and does not seem to mind stepping on people's toes to get their attention. "When these people say that Christian rock is evil because it has a beat, they have no idea what they are talking about. They lack musical knowledge and understanding, and they haven't the faintest idea how to play a musical instrument" (page 53).

Simone has a way of dragging out his arguments, as if he repeats himself over and over. But the repetition does seem to drive his points home.

The end of the book discusses other topics such as racism, abortion, materialism and New Age ideas. This section is brief, but some good points are raised.

The question one may ask is, "Will this book help to convince someone that Christian Rock is not evil?" Simone's arguments are thorough, and there seems to be plenty of appropriate scripture to back up his beliefs. But, in order for someone to change their opinions about Christian Rock, they must be open minded while reading the book. Some of Simone's statements (like the one mentioned above), though they may be right, are almost sure to offend someone and cause them to close their mind.

Overall, the book is quite convincing -- what would you expect a *Heaven's Metal* writer to say? A quote from page 185 basically sums the book up. "Satan is trying so hard to create and destroy what God has raised up, and we as Christians must be very careful about who we try to fight against. Before we

condemn, judge, or reject something or someone, we had better make very sure that we have not been misled by Satan."

--AC

OUT FROM UNDER

It seems to me that this band has matured a great deal since their last musical offering. The tape is professionally packaged, with lyrics and photo on the jay-card, and song titles printed on the cassette shell.

Of the six songs, three of which, "Under The Law," "Face To Face" and "You Need Jesus" are evangelical in nature. "Under The Law" is particularly catchy due to it being performed to the tune of "Breakin' The Law" by Judas Priest. I liked it, but I had to wonder if it was appropriate. "Deceiver" describes some of Satan's qualities. "Rider" talks of the Jesus of Revelation, and "Eyes Up" is a song of encouragement for Christians.

The music is somewhat like you would hear on F.M. rock stations. Nothing real heavy, but not Top 40 either. The production is fair to good.

I like this one better than their last release, but guys, please don't do anymore cover tunes! To order, send \$5.50 to Darrell Leach, 22551 Costa Bella Drive, El Toro, CA 92630.

--JL

THE CALM

Here is a three song demo from what, according to a letter with the tape says, includes the former guitarist from both Armageddon and Taker, with the possibility of two other band mates from taker joining the group as well.

The tunes are good and cover a little new ground. Ellyn Bussey, wife of guitarist D.J. Bussey handles the vocals. While I wasn't impressed with her on the first tune, "The Chosen," she made up for it on the next two, "Burned Out In Babylon" and "Reality."

The music is well performed and shows a lot of depth. I think this is something a lot of older rockers will like. For ordering info, write to The Calm, P.O. Box 1615, Lorton, Virginia 22079.

--JL

RITUAL

Everybody needs a Grindcore/Death Metal album in their music collection. It does wonders for head cold congestion. Fans of Mortification will want to place this demo right next to *Post Momentary Affliction*. Plop, plop, fizz, fizz -- oh what a relief it is.

Ritual comes grinding out of

California with enough aggression and heavy time changes to break a Timex watch. The band showcases its technical side throughout the five song demo with drums pounding like rapid-fire machine guns and the guitars holding a tight, powerful and spasmodic rhythms. Occasionally, Ritual kicks into some heavy mosh grooves which seem to tease, but don't last long enough to please.

The only drawbacks to this gut wrenching demo are the garbage disposal like (Steve Rowe) vocals and the slightly thin, but bearable mix. For ordering info, write to 13490 Rancherias RD, Apple Valley, CA 92308.

--AC

SOUL CHILD

What do you get when you cross Bride with Holy Soldier? Well, you get a great set of lungs for one thing. Vocalist Elijah Gomez shreds the microphone with a range that is hard to top. The mighty vocals coupled with the raw and aggressive music provide some great rock 'n' roll.

Soul Child (formerly called Forgiven) has captured a lot of energy on the demo, with the recording resembling a board mix at a live show. This may account for the slight sloppiness in the guitar tones. There is a definite attitude displayed throughout the demo as well, but nothing can match the in-your-face explosion of the chorus in "No Other Way." The song smoothly creeps around and then BLAM! -- your laying on the floor.

With a demanding producer and a tighter grip on the rhythms, Soul Child will soon be reviewed at the beginning of the ALBUM REVIEWS section with all the other big boys. But until then you can clamp your ears on these promising tunes.

To order, send \$4 to Bill Hicks, 5130 Charolais, San Antonio, TX 78247.

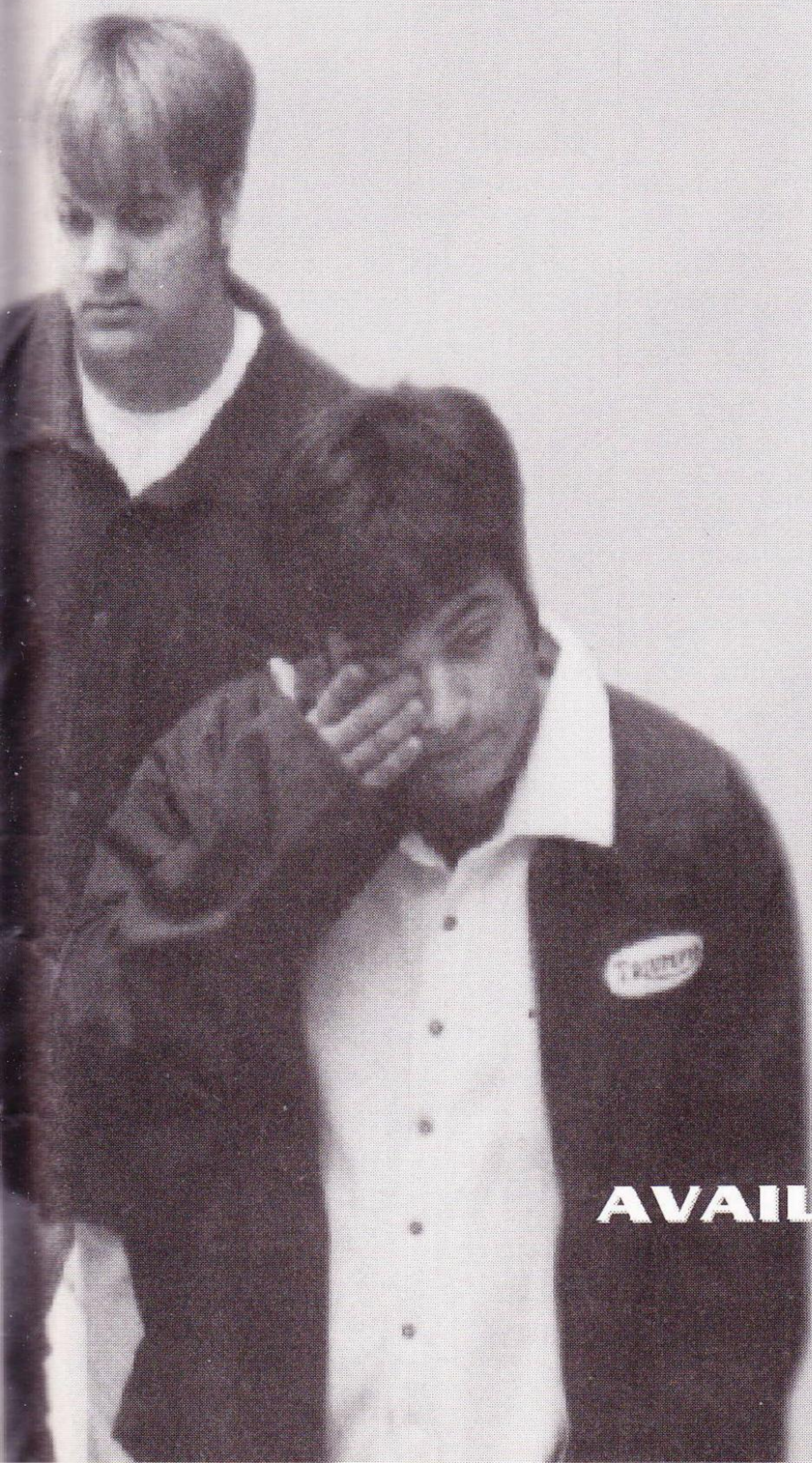
--AC

CATHACOMB

From Finland comes a heavy Death Metal band that fits easily into the norm of what people can expect from this genre of metal. Cathacomb (formerly DMB) does not deserve the trash can, but there is nothing here to blow the roof off the house either. If you like straight ahead grind with distorted vocals, Cathacomb is for you.

There are a few highlights on this five song demo such as the Steve Rowe on drugs approach to the vocal delivery as well as the song "Fools," which is a cool, slow death tune that will put you in a trance.

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A challenge goes out to the band to experiment a bit more --take a chance or two. For ordering info, write to Kaenkuja 19 c 11, 67800 KOKKOLA 80, Finland.

--AC

RELYANT

The band has possibilities. The strong wailing vocals, tight rhythms, shredding guitar licks and solid song writing will attract many ears to the heavy and melodic vibes that are zapped into each of the four songs on the demo.

The melodies grab with confidence due to the quality musicianship that sets this band apart from other unsigned bands. The chorus in "Walking Away From Evil" is big and beefy. The BGV's are definitely happening, but not just in this song. "Quiet Desperation" takes the listener on a soul soothing journey that offers a powerful hope in God. Musically, the song resembles Metallica's "Nothing Else Matters" mixed with some fragile blues. If you like all-out melodic aggression, "When I Close My Eyes" will keep your attention. The songs are not perfect album material, but the positive aspects make up for the flaws.

For those of you who have enjoyed the bands produced by David Zaffiro, there is a slight Zaffiro sound that runs in and out of the songs. Zaffiro didn't produce Relyant's demo, but maybe he should look into doing the next one. For ordering info, write to 2508 W. Diana, Tampa, FL 33614.

--AC

REIGN'S EDGE

It's funky and happy with an undistorted Hot Pink Turtle feel to it. The band labels its sound as "alternative retro-lounge metal." The guitar, bass and drums blend together quite nicely to form a solid platform for the bright vocals. This eight song demo sports a quality production that's as clean and smooth as the band. Die-hard headbangers won't find anything here to cuddle up with, but those of you who like to spread your ears around will appreciate Reign's Edge's creative and lively tunes. To order, send \$8 to P.O. Box 26143, Eugene, OR 97402.

--AC

LDR

Quite honestly, I didn't expect much when I got this tape. Imagine my surprise when I hit the play button and heard a musical assault that made me change my mind very quickly. The first thing that comes to mind when I hear these tunes is the current Deliverance style, which is evident in "Face of It," and Believer, in "Invincible."

Lyrical, these guys seem to be quite mature. "And I begin where logic ends/ You must have faith/ Eternal sleep overcomes all men/ I awake, Don't deny this, I exist." (from "Existence")

The one problem I had with this tape came from the tune "Premeditated Kill." It says, "Premeditated kill, violent, better death than to be a bastard."

Obviously a song about abortion, I simply cannot understand why those types of words have to be used -- especially by a Christian band -- to convey a point.

The production is top notch. Believe me, when the double bass gets rolling, you can feel it. This is a great offering by a young band that should not be passed up. To order, send \$5 to: Stephen Pether, 34 Church Street, Omehunga, Auckland 6, New Zealand.

--JL

COVENANT

Judging by what I've been hearing out of Australia these days, Covenant was a surprise. Out of the land of thrash comes a power metal band with some commercial touches.

Most Mortification fans would cringe if they heard these five songs; but, if you enjoy straight ahead metal, give this one a listen. It starts with "Killing Time," which is about depression and suicide. The production is good, but turn down the bass quite a bit. This one and "Someone Out There" are the heaviest tunes. "Same Tomorrow" is about alcohol abuse, while "Bleeding on the Inside" is about losing a relationship. The title cut is an industrial.

Vocalist Wayne Holden shows good control. His voice never goes flat, even though sings fairly low. I don't understand how drummer Chris Yeend also plays keyboards, but these days anything is possible.

This is a solid effort. The music could be considered somewhat dated; but, if you enjoy it, it doesn't matter. Check it out. For ordering info, write: Prodigal Music, PO Box 602, Noarlunga Centre 5108, South Australia.

--JL

CRIMSON

Out of all the influences that this band listed in their bio, the one band that they sound like the most wasn't listed -- that is, Armageddon. Actually, mix Armageddon, Tourniquet and the growls of Mike Lee and you have an idea of Crimson.

All five songs have more crunch than a Nestle's chocolate bar, and are much better for you spiritually and physically -- unless, of course, you injure yourself while

moshing around.

My favorite was "Life Awaits," which starts with a very eerie description of Christ's death before it rips your head off with its intensity. This tune had the best Tourniquet vibe in it. A lot of thought went into the lyrics as well. "You defend the darkness, but you're lying in your grave, sinking six feet under/ It's keeping you enslaved." ("Chains of Death")

The production is fair to good, but it is listenable. Give it a shot. Crimson is worth checking into. For ordering info, write: 1209 Rena Rd, Van Buren AR 72956.

--JL

HAPPY FICHE

"Dead Man" and "Monkey's Laughter" won't make you swim with joy, but you won't drown in misery either. The songs lack a tight structure that would keep the listener hooked. The musical aspects of the songs are somewhat along the lines of what has been flowing out of Seattle recently.

"Dead Man" has a cool bridge that resembles Alice In Chains, but the vocals (while good) don't quite reach the intensity of Layne Staley. Simple chord changes and a better transition from verse to chorus would do this song wonders. "Monkey's Laughter" starts off with some jangly guitars that create sort of a Seventy Sevens' vibe, but there is nothing else that really stands out. Both songs display some tasty guitar solos.

The musicians in the band have the potential to put out an intense demo with more concentration placed on song writing. For ordering info, write to 4906 Sherman Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72218.

--AC

BLOODBATH

This tape is essentially the same one that I reviewed in Issue #41, but with some BIG differences. One, there are three new songs to go along with the other five: "Exodus," which is obvious concerning its lyrical direction; "We're At War," about spiritual warfare, and "Too Late," which is similar to "No Time" by Deliverance.

Secondly, the whole tape was re-recorded, and the production is much beefier. It really sounds good. Thirdly, the tape is nicely packaged, with the song titles on the cassette shell.

In closing, I must admit that I listened to this tape two or three times before I forced myself to turn it off. I think you'll feel the same way! To order, send \$5 to: PO Box 3011, Mililani HI 96789.

--JL

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1993 Staff Picks

We polled our

staff members and asked them what their top five favorite albums were in '93, as well as their choices for "favorite unsigned band" and "favorite live show." We even let our intern, Andrew Crump, give his choices. We'll see how "in touch" we are with you, when we publish your reader's poll results in the next issue.

Jeff Scheetz

Favorite Albums

- 1) *Miracle Mile* by Guardian
- 2) *Brother* by Cry of Love
- 3) *Powers of 10* by Shawn Lane
- 4) *Solo Outtakes* by Charlie Parker
- 5) *Tamplin*

Favorite Live Show -
Jeff Scheetz Band

Favorite Unsigned Band - Any
band that refuses to wear
flannel shirts and combat boots!

Pastor Bob

Favorite Albums

- 1) *Tamplin*
- 2) *You Oughta Know By Now* by Rachel Rachel
- 3) *Reggae Worship* by Christafari
- 4) *Precious Death*

5) *All Hail The Power*
by P.K. Mitchell

Favorite Live Show
- Stephen Curtis Chapman

Favorite Unsigned Band -
Precious Death

Wendi Kaiser

Favorite Albums

- 1) *All My Days* by Glenn Kaiser
- 2) *Back To Mercy* by Brooke Williams
- 3) *Reach Of Love* by REZ
- 4) *Miracle Mile* by Guardian
- 5) *Bus Named Desire* by Ashley Cleveland

Favorite Live Show - Larry
Howard/Glenn Kaiser

Favorite Unsigned Band
- Steve Bell

David Jenison

Favorite Albums

- 1) *Mindwarp* by Brainchild
- 2) *Metamorphosis*
- 3) *Cash 'N' Chaos* by L.S.U.
- 4) *Pet The Fish* by Wish For Eden
- 5) *Revolution Mind* by Magdalen

Favorite Live Show
- The Crucified

Favorite Unsigned Band
- Scapegoat

Jeff Lott

Favorite Albums

- 1) *Post Momentary Affliction* by Mortification
- 2) *Miracle Mile* by Guardian
- 3) *Learn* by Deliverance
- 4) *Mindwarp* by Brainchild
- 5) *Fall, Babylon Fall* by Veni Domine

Favorite Live Show
- Tourniquet

Favorite Unsigned Band -
Precious Death

Andrew Crump

Favorite Albums

- 1) *Magenta Manta Love Tree* by Dig Hay Zoose
- 2) *Space in Your Face* by Galactic Cowboys
- 3) *Shawl* by Prayer Chain
- 4) *Healing* by Rose
- 5) *Sodom & America* by XL & DBD

Favorite Live Show
- The Prayer Chain

Favorite Unsigned Band -
Sometime Sunday

Camille Bresie

Favorite Albums

- 1) *Zooropa* by U2
- 2) *Saviour Machine*
- 3) *Miracle Mile* by Guardian
- 4) *...Ragamuffin Band* by Rich Mullins
- 5) *Free at Last* by DC Talk

Favorite Live Show
- Saviour Machine

Favorite Unsigned Band
- 20/20 Blind

Doug Van Pelt

Favorite Albums

- 1) *Lovewar*
- 2) *Space in Your Face* by Galactic Cowboys
- 3) *Learn* by Deliverance
- 4) *Miracle Mile* by Guardian
- 5) *Sodom & America* by XL & DBD

Favorite Live Show
- Crucified/Mortal

Favorite Unsigned Band
- Precious Death

Jerry Wilson

Favorite Albums

- 1) *Highlands* by Whiteheart
- 2) *Reach of Love* by REZ
- 3) *All My Days* by Glenn Kaiser
- 4) *Left to Write* by Dick & Mel Tunney
- 5) *Shawl* by The Prayer Chain

Favorite Live Show
- The Prayer Chain

Favorite Unsigned Band - The
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* There are a few **Back Issues** of HM available. They are: #20 (Sacred Warrior); #22 (Bloodgood); #25 (Whitecross); #28 (Believer);

#29 (Jet Circus); #31 (X-Sinner); #32 (Crucified); #33 (Holy Soldier); #34 (Lanny Cordola); #35 (Novella); #36 (REZ); #37 (Tourniquet); #38 (Bride); #40 (Guardian); #41 (Mortification); #42 (Believer); and #43 (Tamplin). All others are sold out. Each copy is \$2.95 (Canadian/Foreign orders add \$3 per copy for Air Mail postage).

* Hey! How about a **Heaven's Metal Baseball Hat?** How about at \$5 each (plus \$1 for U.S. postage/\$3 Canada and \$5 Foreign)?

* Well, howza 'bout **Heaven's Metal "WORSHIP AT FULL VOLUME" Dogtags?** They're \$5 each (plus 50 cents postage/foreign \$1)

* **Heaven's Metal Posters** are still available from some issues at \$1 each: Holy Soldier; Believer; King's X; Ray Parris (B&W); and Zion (B&W).

* The **HEAVEN'S METAL T-SHIRTS** Scream!!! They are all X-Large black, 100% cotton shirts with the logo in a red/orange/yellow bleed. Send \$10 (plus \$1 postage/\$4 Canada & Foreign). We also have **Sweat-shirts!** They're X-Large, 100% Cotton also, and are \$20 (plus \$2 postage/\$6 Canada & Foreign).

* **HEAVEN'S METAL "WORSHIP AT FULL VOLUME" BUTTONS** are back! They're \$1.00 (plus 50 cents postage) each (Canada/Foreign add \$1 postage). They come in red, orange, pink, blue and green.

* **Heaven's Metal Stickers** are classy. They're printed with a metallic gold mirror finish. Transform your vehicle into a "Heaven's Metalmobile." \$1.00 each (plus 29 cents postage/\$0.50 foreign).

* **Heaven's Metal Watches** rock. (A deluxe fashion watch with the HM logo and a genuine leather strap) for \$29.95 (plus \$1 postage).

* Each subscriber to Heaven's Metal has two **Prayer Partners**. We take the names directly above and below yours on the master subscription list, who have been designated to pray for you and vice-versa. Write in if you'd like their names and addresses.

* If you'd be willing to make copies of a **Heaven's Metal flyer** to post around your town, write in for a master copy.

* **DO YOU WANNA GROW??** Check out the R.A.D. Discipleship package from Sanctuary. They're free, come in one month packets; and feature real live feedback from folks trained at Sanctuary to answer questions and give you more books and material as you progress. Write: PO Box 4130, Redondo Beach CA 90278.

* **NEED TO TALK?** Call the Sanctuary Hotline at 1-800-548-5222. No one will take your money. Trained counselors are there strictly to help you.

* **Advertise in Heaven's Metal!** Those that do get a good response!

HM

BITE-SIZE METAL TRACKS

Hot Pink Turtle didn't get their P.O. Box printed in its latest album. It is: PO Box 25346, Kansas City MO 64119.

Red Sea has scheduled time in the studio to record its debut album -- due out in April.

May 14, 1994 is "**Free Gig**" Day!

**we're
younger
we're
faster
and
Moms
like us
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Ask Wendi . . .

encompassing of our past. Also, His forgiveness is always available for us. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)

The fact is this: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:13)

Whether or not you "feel" saved or pure is subjective. The fact is, once you have believed and repented, you are declared righteous by the highest authority -- God! "What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)

Secondly, some of us do not "feel" right because we are still hanging on to old friends, habits, and ways of thinking. When we become Christians, we start out on the narrow road to life. Some of us are travelling with a lot of old baggage, which complicates our journey.

If you have ever walked through O'Hare Airport to change terminals, you can understand how troublesome heavy carry-ons can get. Christian life is similar; if you carry a lot of heavy baggage, it'll slow you down and possibly trip you up.

Jesus says: "Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." (Hebrews 12:1)

A lion, when hunting, singles out the slowest animal in the herd to kill and devour. If we are toting a heavy load, we will be slow and many times separated from the herd. We can easily fall prey to the enemy.

"Cast all your anxiety (fears, doubts, hurts) on Him, because He cares for you. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." (1 Peter 5:7-8)

Thirdly, some of us are just plain angry with God! We are like a small child with an earache who is sick and in pain, but is too angry and fearful to take his/her medicine. The medicine giver can become the target of that small child's blameshifting. "It is all the giver's fault

that I am in pain and am sick." Unfortunately, this child is alienated from the very one who can help him/her (The "It is not fair" syndrome).

Many of us are more interested in pinning blame on someone or something than we are in being restored. We have found some sort of twisted identity or security as victims -- not really wanting to let go and to be healed. Jesus also asks us, "Do you want to get well?" (John 5:6)

Finally, some of us are unrealistic about ourselves and our past. In one way, sins are all the same -- deadly. But, in another way, sins are very distinctive in their aftereffects. Some habits, experiences, and practices are more personally damaging and have more serious spiritual and emotional repercussions.

"Do not be deceived; God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:7-9)

Jesus tells us very plainly that the Christian life is not self-seeking or self-serving.

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matthew 16:24-26)

So, in summary, perhaps you do not "feel" saved or pure because:

1. You are trusting your emotions above God's word and are placing more importance on your feelings than the facts.
2. You are hanging on to old problems, habits, or relationships.
3. You are blaming others and nursing anger instead of letting God administer the cure.
4. You are impatient or unrealistic about the damaging effects of sin and are weary in well doing.

Finally, emotional healing most often occurs simply as a by-product of obedient and loving Christian living. (1 John 3:16-20)

Drop me a line at: Jesus People USA, Wendi's Column, 920 W. Wilson, Dept. W, Chicago IL 60640; or fax (312) 989-2076.

The question has been asked, "How can I feel pure again after I have been sexually promiscuous, raped, molested, and/or involved in unbiblical sexual practices (i.e. homosexuality, group sex, pornography...)?"

This is a complex question with a multifaceted answer. While not wanting to be overly simplistic, I personally believe there are four basic answers, and your answer may include one or any combination of the four.

First, we must separate reality from our emotions. Many of us are really asking, "I am a Christian, so why don't I feel like a new person?" Perhaps you are misunderstanding the nature of salvation and forgiveness. "Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord. "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow." (Isaiah 1:18)

When anyone, regardless of past lifestyle or sexual history, comes to God in faith asking for salvation, they can receive this great salvation as an unearned and unearnable gift. "For it is by grace (unearned favor) you have been saved, through faith -- and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God -- not by works (human effort), so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

There are no "good person/bad person" categories when we come to God -- we are all sinners. In this sense, God is the great equalizer -- compared to Him, we are all "bad." Salvation is offered to all and to any who will repent and believe. "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." (Romans 3:22, 24)

God's forgiveness is all-

The Christian & Art

by Kemper B. Crabb II

The Sons of Issachar: Understanding the Times, Part 2

This issue, we will continue to examine the importance for the Christian artist of “understanding the times,” a concept drawn from the example of the Sons of Issachar mentioned in I Chronicles 12:32, which states that these were men “. . . who understood the times and knew what Israel should do . . .” (NIV). This verse shows that they knew God’s Word and how to apply it effectively to their historical and cultural situations, exampling to their contemporaries (and thus to us, cf. I Cor. 10:11) that the way to proceed in a godly fashion as God’s people must include intimate understanding of both Holy Scripture and our historical setting. Last issue, we considered some of the implications of half of this vital model’s insistence that we “understand the times,” and explored the necessity of knowing our society’s cultural history in order to effectively engage it with our art.

We turn now from last issue’s more “theoretical” to a more “practical” applications of the meaning of “understanding the times.” Those called to artistry (of whatever stripe) must work hard to develop their crafts (Mt. 25; I Cor. 4:2; Prov. 22:29). This requires artists to master the “vocabulary,” “tools” or “moves” (e.g., the artistic components) of their various vocations. Thus, if the artist is a lyricist, he must learn the language, in its uses, well. He must study its structure and the way it works in different applications. If the artist is an instrumentalist, he must practice hard to master his instrument to the extremes of his possible proficiency. If he is a songwriter, both of the apply. If he is a performer, he must learn the intricacies of movement (or vocal technique, or whatever is proper to his calling), preparing himself physically, mentally and spiritually to accomplish his goals to the utmost of ability! In other words, the artist must study what his artistic task means, and how to work it out. To be able to do this, the artist requires a context for his art. As we will see (Lord willing) in future issues, part of the artist’s context is provided by Scripture. The other part of his context, though, is provided in our experience of history. It was pointed out last issue, we do not make art in a vacuum,

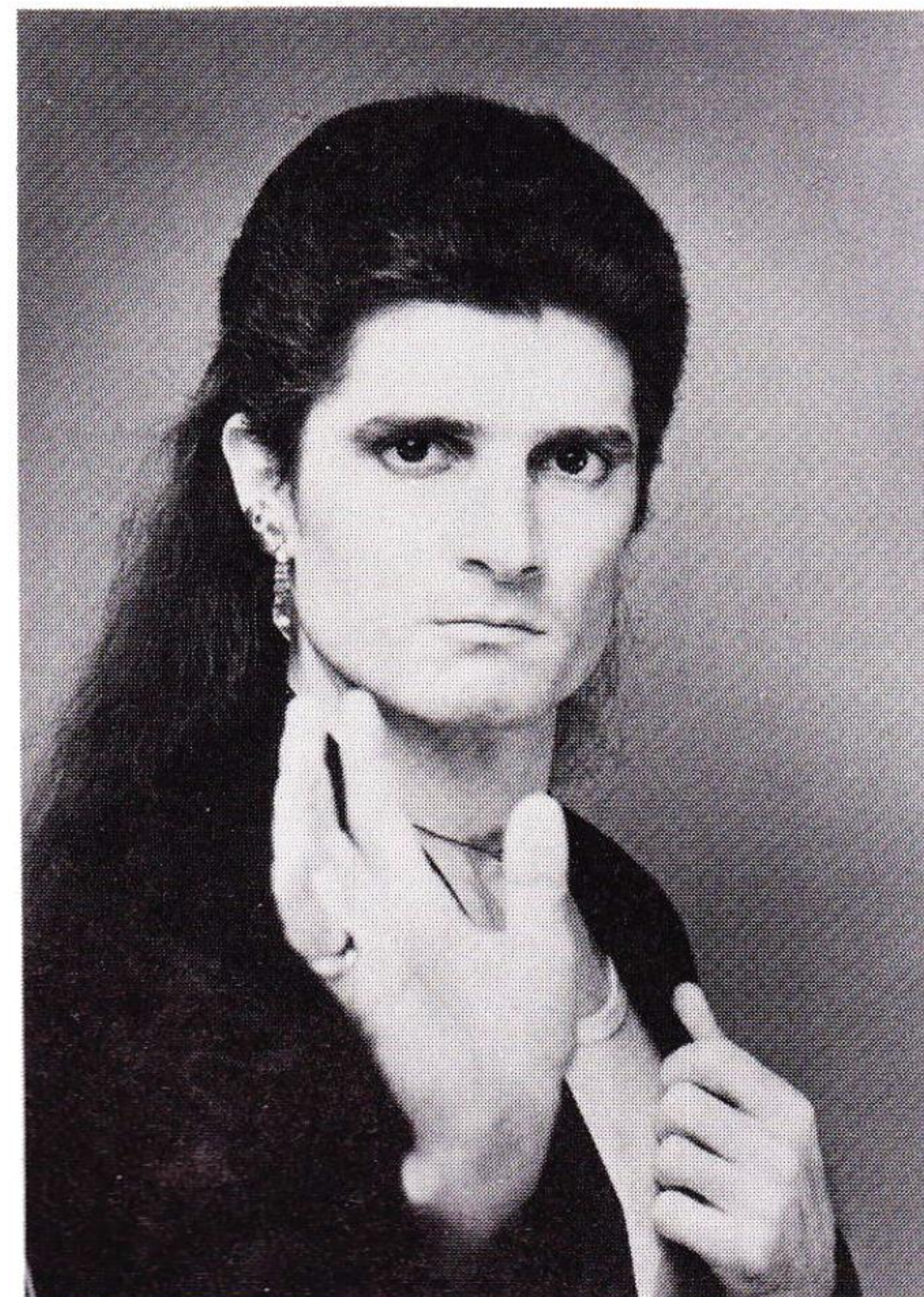
but, rather, we do our part within the continuum of time, which allows us the perspective of gradual experience, allowing us critical perspective on our growth as artists.

This means that we must pay attention to the “T” word: tradition (a very scary word for most Americans, especially those of us who are Protestant). Tradition embraces the past (history), and the sum of the past to date (the present). This presents a God-given opportunity to the artist, that of looking to, and studying, the past of his tradition. We are to learn to critically examine the past works of art (whether from the last four years or the last four thousand) that defined our artistic tradition, and thus shaped and influenced our approach to our own art, and our opinion of what defines beauty and artistic good.

We must remember that God controls history (it really is His story), and as such, it is His gift to His people. Do not despise it. Study and seek to emulate through your own gifts and talents the beauty and presence of God communicated through those past works of art.

The great lie of modern non-Christian art is that art’s meaning comes from the individual artist alone, and that art must have no reference to the past and its influence (as though either of those things were even remotely possible . . .). Scripture, though, teaches apprenticeship, learning from those who are more skilled than oneself. The past (even the distant past) can accomplish this by its art instructing us in the present. We can learn by seeking to live up to the standards of beauty and skill achieved by past artists whose works of art still inspire us today. As Hippocrates said (long ago), “Life is short, but Art is long.”

We can also take advantage of tradition by apprenticing ourselves to someone more skilled at our craft than we are in the present, someone who has contributed his own work to our artistic tradition, and who has become more proficient than we are by benefitting longer that have we from study of that tradition (e.g., someone who is more skilled than we are at songwriting, dancing, acting, playing instruments, etc., and thus can teach us new licks, moves or other components of our craft, can introduce us to past works that we’ve



missed, and (very importantly) hold us accountable to develop by assessing our own work at present from a more informed perspective).

Apprenticeships requires the humility to admit that someone else is more developed in their talent than we are, and that we need help to develop as artist. If ever we think that our art cannot improve, we fall into a trap, and will be kept by our pride from developing to the potential God demands from us. We must work hard learning tradition and apprenticing.

In order to understand our times effectively, we must know the roots of our past from which the tree of our present has grown. In order to effectively communicate our art to our culture, we must understand how our craft has developed in relationship to that culture, and how the development of that tradition of our artistic calling has effected our artistic task today. We must be responsible to develop our God-given artistic task to be a bridge of glory, both to our darkened contemporary culture, and to those artists God will one day in the future call to carry that artistic vocation forward into an understanding of their own time to come. If we fail to do these things well, we will have failed both to understand our times and to follow example of the godly Sons of Issachar.

HM

You can receive Kemper’s newsletter and/or order *Vigil*/Arkangel/Radiohalo product by writing to: PO Box 840501, Houston TX 77284-0501.

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THE TIMES, THEY ARE A CHANGIN'

This is in response to "Quit Splitting" in H.M. #43.

Aron, brother, the many personnel changes among Christian bands is part of Christian music's uniqueness. If you look at the reasons that bands and their members come and go in quick succession, you will see that these people have their priorities in the right order. While most (not all, but most) secular bands split due to death or disagreement (Led Zeppelin, Beatles, Van Halen, Poison), and still others just do it too long (Rolling Stones). The majority of Christian bands have a completely different value system. They move around a lot, in and out of bands and the industry for reasons that almost always boil down to living a life pleasing to God and doing His will. Two of the most quoted reasons are family concerns and God's purpose for the band being fulfilled. Still others go to Bible college, seminary and full-time preaching/teaching ministries.

In a world where most people will do anything for fame and profit, we enjoy the art of people who place integrity over profit. Would you rather Barren Cross to have stuck together outside of God's will just to keep the fans happy?

However, from a strictly commercial view, this is also Christian metal's weakness point. If living a Godly life did not censor you from commercial/secular success, why isn't former rock legend Mark Farner enjoying the adoration of Rolling Stone or Spin magazines?

So, the "splitting" of groups is part of what makes Christian metal superior to, but less commercially successful than, the world's alternative. And if a concern for personal righteousness and living a Godly life -- following His will -- is to be considered Christian music's greatest weakness, just ponder about the strengths it must have!

--Kenny Jenson

St. Petersburg, Florida

THE \$100,000 QUESTION

I was just wondering something about Saviour Machine. As you know, you had a poster of them in a recent Heaven's Metal (#40). One of the members had a bead-like thing (I don't know what else to call it) in his forehead. I didn't think anything of it until I was watching a television show that had an interview with Boy George in it. He has something just like it in his head. He says he does it because he is part of some Hindu sect. So, before jumping to

conclusions, I decided to see if you know.

--Jonathan Rose

Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota

(Ed--We asked Eric "not Boy

George" Clayton, the vocalist for Saviour Machine the same question you did:

"What the heck is that thang?"

"That's the most-asked question I hear," says Eric. "I get such a kick out of it. It is absolutely nothing. It's a turquoise stone with a silver feather coming out of it. It's a Navajo Indian jewelry piece. It's just a fashion statement. When I shaved my head, I was looking for some kind of look with the makeup and stuff. It seemed really empty up there, so I had to put something there. It doesn't represent anything. It's kind of like a piece of jewelry or fashion statement. I hear, 'Is that a third eye?' It's like an ear ring or something. People ask me, 'Did you pierce your head?' (laughs)

"Yeah, it's just one big giant stud!" Call me 'Stone head!'"

COWBOY DOGGIN'

I was a bit concerned as I read the letter written by Zack Martinez. I am a huge Galactic Cowboys fan, and believe that they are fulfilling their role within the Christian community. I know that I have certainly been blessed by their commitment to honesty, integrity, art, musicianship, and their faith. I wish that more "secular" bands would follow their example. I don't think the Cowboys are trying to "see how close they can be to the world." They are simply ministering to the ones who need it the most. And I applaud them for not shoving Christ down the throats of their audience, but sharing issues, truth and their lives with these people. Was this not what Jesus did?

Apart from Jesus Christ, none of us have a corner on Truth -- including on how to evangelize the Gospel. Christianity is made up of a diverse body of believers. And it is this diversity, even in evangelism, that allows us to make up the body of Christ. In Galatians 2:11-14 Paul judged that the truth of the Gospel was at stake when Greek and Jewish Christians no longer ate together. How much more acute is the Gospel of Jesus Christ when some Christians take part in the oppressing and criticizing of other Christians? Let's open our minds and support our fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord.

--Matthew Hunt

Sharpsburg, Kentucky

(Ed--I too have been "blessed"

by the band's commitment to honesty and art. I would come just short of calling it "ministry" --at least in the same respect

that we in America think of the term "ministry" -- and I think they would too.)

"O' CANADA" LEFT OUT

I have been an HM reader for several years, buying my copy every second month at my local bookstore. I really enjoy sticking my nose in this oh so heavenly magazine -- from everything from interviews to concert dates. This brings me to why I'm writing: I look at the concert dates and never see Canadian dates. Why? There are Christian metalheads in Canada, too, you know.

--Pat Beaulieu

Victoria, B.C.

(Ed--The reason we don't see a lot of tour dates for Canada -- or for anywhere else, for that matter -- is that the bands aren't touring that much. Please pray for the whole touring ministry, 'cause it's a hard thing to pull off for a band. I'm sure there are tons of bands that are itchin' to play Canada.)

LONG LIVE DEATH VOCALS!

I'm writing in response to all the people who cut down DJ's vocals and death metal vocals in whole. Please don't! You have your musical tastes, so what gives you the right to cut down others? For your info, death metal vocals are not just growling -- they take skill and practice. Sure, you can probably do them, but for how long? Thirty seconds? Some of us death vocalists (probably all of us) take pride in our vocals, and it hurts when people make it sound like it takes no skill. One more thing: they're not demonic. It's a vocal style and it's simply a matter of taste.

--Brian Kaphengst

Toronto, Ontario

SEW AND SEW AND SEW

I've really enjoyed my last two years getting Heaven's Metal and look forward to the next two. I find all the interviews and articles very encouraging and a valuable tool in helping me maintain a godly lifestyle pleasing to our Lord! I find your "What So & So Sez" a great feature that gives me a lot of food for thought. When I meet others around me with the same world views as the band featured, I find I have ample ammunition to engage in talks and present the Gospel in a non-hostile manner, but still have a true and confrontational way. It's always been my philosophy to always encourage people to at least look at the Bible and its claims, and this feature helps me do this.

--Ken Bitz

Calgary, Alberta

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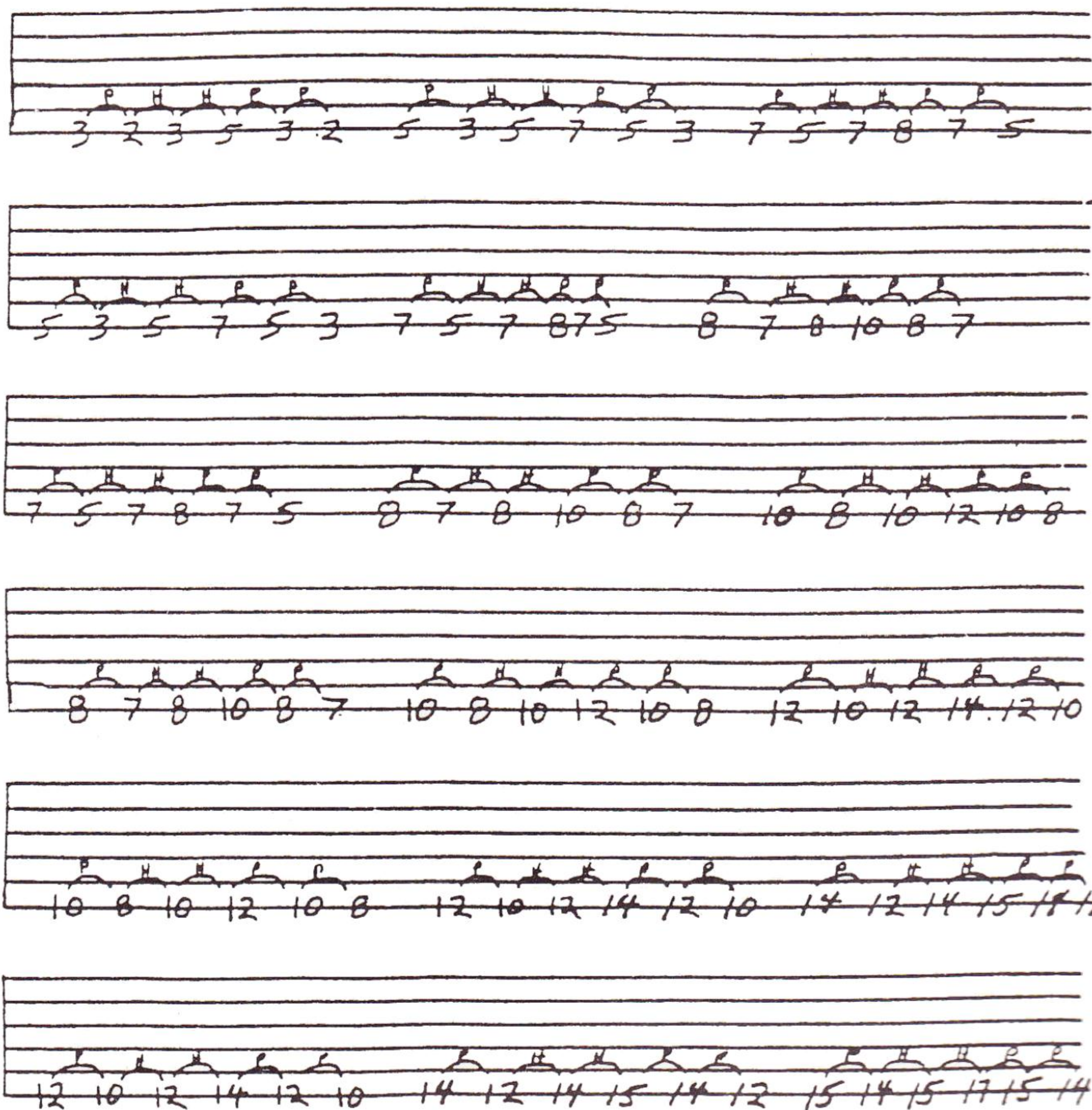
Licks & Tricks by Jeff Scheetz

KILLERS

This is basically a left hand exercise that I do. I call it "Killers," because it reminds me of those running up and down the floor drills I used to hate in Junior High basketball. If you do this enough, it has the same effect on your fingers as those drills did on your legs!

Practice the first phrase until you get the hammer-on/pull-off configuration down. You start each phrase with a hammer-on (you don't pick at all with your right hand), and continue up the neck. It is just written out going up the neck, but you should do the same thing coming back down the neck. Then you go to the 5th string and go up it the same way. You can go up and down each string diatonically like the 6th string (which is in G major), or you can just do the exact same pattern on every string.

Write Jeff at: PO Box 10135,
Kansas City MO 64111. HM



PASTOR BOB



Photo by Sandra Mayurnik

As the band sat in their dressing room getting ready for the big show, the air simmered with tension. It was obvious that the guys couldn't get along with each other any more. Even though the band had been very successful, the inner struggles within each member screamed for someone to listen. No one did.

Darren came into the room. He was their publicist, road manager, and personal friend. He had done a good job for the band. He had put them on the map, so to speak! "It looks like you guys have some time to kill," he announced. "The bands are running a little behind. They let the last band do an encore -- and there's still one more band before you go on."

"Who's running this stupid show -- a bunch of morons? Tell 'em we're the hottest signed act around and we're supposed to headline, and if we don't go on within the next 30 minutes, we're walkin'!"

Darren tried to reason with the guys, but they didn't seem to be listening. They were getting harder and harder to work with. They were angry that their demands for fresh fruit and soft drinks in their dressing room had not been taken care of. They were angry that the stage was too small to set up all of their elaborate set. They were angry that they only had 20 minutes for sound check -- even though they themselves were a couple hours late. Darren had worked just as hard -- maybe harder than the rest of

the guys. He wanted this band to succeed just as badly as anyone.

"Guys, let's pray while we've got some extra time." Darren's words struck like lightning. They hadn't really spent much time in prayer lately. It just hadn't felt like the mood was right. Sometimes they just prayed as they ran out the door. Darren remembered one time when the band members decided that each one should just pray before they came to the concerts by themselves. He wondered if any of them were even praying at all!

As quickly as the prayer time started, it was over. All the right things said -- all the right concerns expressed. Darren realized their words were hollow. Now everyone scurried to get all the last minute details under way. As they did their last minute tuning and began to run for the stage, one of the guys yelled, "Let's show those other bands who's boss!"

As Darren watched the show from backstage, he realized that his band did "blow the others away." They were well rehearsed, and, with their mixture of pure talent, pyro-techniques and good stage presence, they sent the crowd into a frenzy!

After their second encore, the band went backstage and congratulated themselves on a great performance. Then, after a while, as was customary, they went to their merchandise table to sign autographs. Hundreds of kids came by and bought up t-shirts, photos and CD's for them to sign. Many of them made comments like, "You guys are my favorite band next to Metallica!"

As the band pulled away from the club, they were glad to be away from the multitudes of peppy fans. But, after they realized how much of a killing they made on merchandise, they were glad that they were so popular. Soon, they all hoped, they could quit their "day jobs" and do "ministry" full time.

They began to think of the future. If they continued to grow in popularity, would they be a "Christian band" or a "kickin' band with Christians in it?" They all decided to "pray" about it and continued home.

In a noisy coffee shop across town, Robert walked in with his acoustic guitar and amp and set up in a corner to play. No one seemed to notice him walk in. As he tuned his guitar, he prayed, "Lord, thank You for this opportunity.

Help me to be confident as I share the music that You've given me. Please send Your Holy Spirit to touch people tonight. Amen." Robert's insecurity about sharing blatantly Christian music to a completely secular crowd began to go away.

As he began to play, only a few people seemed to notice, but they went right back to talking. Whenever the patrons were clearing tables or running espresso machines, it was so loud that he could barely hear himself sing.

At this time a girl walked in with some school books and sat in the corner across the room from Robert -- intending to study. She listened distractedly for a few moments, but continued to study.

Robert finished a few songs and decided to take a break. No one even seemed to notice that he wasn't playing anymore. He was really quite frustrated, because he didn't seem to make the slightest impact on the place. He went outside and prayed a few minutes before his second set. "Lord Jesus, please help me. It seems that no one is listening. Please use me. Open their ears so they can hear what they need so desperately to hear. Please enable me to make the most of this opportunity. Thank You God. Amen."

As he started his second set, he noticed that the girl in the corner began to take a little more notice of what he was saying. By the third song he noticed that she was very attentive and that a tear began to roll down her cheek. She was visibly being touched by God.

Just before his last song, she got up and left without a word. Robert never even got a chance to talk to her afterward. He packed up his stuff and left the shop with no thanks, no food and no payment. However, he knew that God had done something in this girl's life and he thanked the Lord for it.

On the way home he continued to pray for her and praised God for such a successful concert.

Questions? Comments?

Write to me!

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CHRISTIAN KILLER!

There he stood, holding the coats of his peers, as they picked up rocks and hurled them at an innocent Christian. He watched as the rocks ripped open the man's face and skull. He watched with approval as the stones spilt this man's blood on the ground and quickly ended his life. He probably told the men, "Good job," as he handed their coats back to them. This man was cold. He was ruthless. He was a Christian killer.

Immediately after this death by stoning, the Christian killer went to work. He began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison. He breathed out murderous threats against the disciples of Jesus. It's almost funny how angry and upset some people get about Jesus and those who follow Him. Jesus is perceived as a threat to some. Even though He is remembered as a gentle, meek and mild baby at Christmas time, while on earth He boldly spoke the truth about Himself and His Father. He was anything but weak. He never backed down from those who challenged Him. He said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but by Me." When it came time for His life to be offered, He offered it willingly. Those who killed Christ soon became Christian killers.

This Christian killer wasn't your typical murderous thug. He was a religious man. He kept strict regulations and tried to honor God in everything he did -- including the murder of Christians. This perverted view of offering service to God is as sick as the most foul demon in hell. Imagine taking the life of a person made in God's image as some sort of service to the life-giving God!

Blinded by his rage against this threat to his religious viewpoint, he asked for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any Christians there, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. As he neared Damascus on his journey of death, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why

do you persecute me?" At this point, the Christian killer became a Christian. He met the same Jesus that those he killed had lived for.

The news of this transformation from Christian killer to Christian spread fast throughout the Middle East. Most of the Christians who heard the news were skeptical, though. "How could this man who once killed people who believed in the Name of Jesus now be preaching Jesus?" A lot of Christians were freaked out about this. This really forced them to grapple with forgiveness at its most difficult point. How do you forgive a man who has murdered your brothers and sisters? Beyond forgiveness, how do you work alongside such a man? Would you want to invite him to your home and let him be around your sons and daughters?

The first Christian that had to interact with this person was a man named Ananias. When he asked God concerning these questions, God answered him. "This man is my chosen instrument to carry My Name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for My Name." When Ananias and other Christians began to trust and embrace this new Christian, they demonstrated what the church is all about -- love, acceptance and forgiveness. Love covers a multitude of sins -- even the sin of murder!

With the support and help of the church, this former Christian killer went on to lead tons of people to Jesus and has helped spread the Gospel across the world. Many of us who are Christians today may not be here if this guy had not been faithful to preach Jesus to his former victims. This is an example of how the love of God can truly overcome hatred, mistrust, fear and sin. You may not be a Christian killer, but you have had to deal with hatred, mistrust, fear and sin in your life. Allow the same God who changed Saul from a Christian killer to a Christian to transform your life. You will never be the same and, who knows, God may use you to change the world as much as He did with Saul.